


SAMUEL A. MOFFETT

FIRST LETTERS FROM KOREA

1890-1891



**PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
INSTITUTE OF MISSIONS
SEOUL, KOREA**



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(1890—1891)

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Seoul, 1975

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Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Institute of Missions

133-01, Kwanjang-dong, Sungdong-ku

Seoul, Korea

Introduction

The letters printed here are the first reports from Korea of the Rev. Samuel Austin Moffett, one of the pioneer Protestants in that country, to his mission board, the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in New York City. As such they are a valuable contemporary record of the early attitudes, strategy and goals of one of the most effective missions in east Asia.

The originals were kept for years in the archives of the Board but were microfilmed along with a wide selection of documents dating to before 1910, and then unfortunately destroyed. These particular letters are on Reel 179, MF 10, F761. The microfilm records of the Board of Foreign Missions are now deposited in the library of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

The Rev. S. A. Moffett was born in Madison, Indiana, on January 25, 1864. He graduated from Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana (A.B. 1884; M.S. 1885; D.D. 1901) and from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1888. Appointed a missionary to Korea by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. (the Northern Presbyterian Church, as it was often called) on April 15, 1889, he sailed from San Francisco on December 16, 1889 and landed at Chemulpo,

the sea-port of Seoul, on his twenty-sixth birthday, January 25, 1890. This was five and a half years after the arrival of the first resident Protestant missionary in Korea, Dr. Horace Allen, M.D.

In his forty-six years in Korea, S.A. Moffett opened up north Korea to missionary residence in 1892 and 1893, founded the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Korea in 1901 and became the first moderator of Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Korea. He was also the moderator of the 8th General Assembly in 1919 and served as president of Union Christian College (Soongsil, now Soongjun University) from 1918 to 1928. He was forced out of Korea by the Japanese in 1936, and died in Monrovia, California, on October 24, 1939.

These letters were transcribed for publication in the magazine of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Korea, *Church and Theology* (Kyohwei wa Sinhak), for 1975.

It may be helpful to add a word of explanation about persons and places mentioned in the letters. There were eight Northern Presbyterian missionaries in the Korea Mission when Moffett arrived. Dr. and Mrs. Horace Allen, M.D., had come in 1884 as the first resident Protestant missionaries in Korea. Rev. Horace G. Underwood arrived in 1885, the first Presbyterian clergyman. Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Heron, M.D. also came in 1885; Dr. Lillias Horton

(soon to be Mrs. Underwood), Miss Mary Hayden (later Mrs. Gifford), and the Rev. D. L. Gifford all came in 1888, as did James S. Gale, a Canadian who later joined the mission.

Orthography of Korean place names was as much a problem then as now. Most confusing, perhaps, is Moffett's spelling of Hpyeng Yang or Ping An for what is now usually written as Pyongyang. But the things he has to say in these letters (which were not written for publication) about evangelism as a missionary priority, for example, or about missions and politics, inter-missionary relations, and the decision-making process in the precedent-making pioneering days of an unusually successful Protestant mission, are as interesting today as his first impressions of Korea as a foreigner eighty-five years ago.

Samuel Hugh Moffett

Seoul, September, 1975

드리는 말씀

본 서간 출판에 대한 서문을 본 원의 원장이신 마삼락 (Samuel H. Moffett) 박사께서 자세히 써주셨읍니다만 몇 말씀 드리는 것은 첫째 이 서간을 우리말로 번역하지 않았다는 점입니다. 이 서간이 소장된 이후 처음으로 공개되는 마당에 원문 그대로 밝혀지는 것이 보다 더 의의가 있다고 생각한 나머지입니다. 둘째로 양해의 말씀을 드리는 것은 이 서간의 1891년도 후반부 서한이 공개되지 못한 점입니다. 마이크로 필름 프로젝터가 고장이 나서입니다. 다음에 지판할 시에는 후반부의 서한들이 실릴 것을 약속하며 이 옥고가 한국 교회와 학계에 귀중한 자료가 될 수 있기를 바라마지 않습니다.

이 귀중한 원고를 공개케 하신 마삼락 박사님께 감사드리며 인재를 맡아 수고하신 혜선문화사와 고정을 보신 미스 송에게 감사드립니다.

1975. 9. 5

장로회신학대학 선교문제연구원

총무 손 병 호

1. **Jan. 28, 1890.** Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood

After a very pleasant voyage, Miss Doty and I arrived here safely Saturday night. We arrived in Yokohama just after the steamer for Korea had left and consequently were in Japan for two weeks. I am very glad of the delay as it gave me an opportunity to see something of the work in Japan and also to get pretty well acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Underwood who as you know are temporarily in Yokohama.

The missionaries in Japan greeted us very cordially and I had the pleasure of visiting the Meiji Gakuin and Graham Seminary in Tokyo, the Doshisha and Doshisha Girls' School in Kioto and Sturges' seminary and the Boys' School in Nagasaki. Was also greatly benefited by conversations with the missionaries and shall always be glad that I had the two weeks survey of the work in Japan.

After a two days rest I am now temporarily settled with Mr. Gifford and ready for study. Took my first lesson in the language this morning and hope to continue patiently until I can make use of it. My first impression here is that the Koreans very greatly need the Gospel and I trust and pray I may be prepared to help give it to them.....

Sincerely yours in the work
Samuel A. Moffett

2. **March 18, 1890.** Seoul. To Dr. Ellinwood.

When I saw you in New York you asked me to write to you soon

after I arrived on the field, giving an account of my first impressions. I have been here less than two months yet have received a great many impressions, but they are of course the result of a very superficial survey of the people and country, the Mission and its work. These impressions lead to conclusions subject to very sudden changes according as the impressions are modified by enlarged knowledge and experience. However I shall write you very fully and frankly for I suppose you want to know just how things appear to one arriving upon the field.

Knowing as you do the troublous times which have afflicted this Mission you will know that I cannot give my impressions without seeming to criticize the actions of either or both of the conflicting factions in any critical spirit.

I had the good fortune to meet Mr. and Mrs. Underwood in Japan and during the two weeks spent there had opportunities to discuss pretty fully the condition past and present, and the future prospects of the work in Korea.

Arriving here my first impression, deepened as time goes by, was that the people show an utter lack of positive happiness. They seem to have a look of settled submission to an unsatisfying life. The first happy face which I saw was that of our native evangelist and to me the contrast was a very marked one and impressed me very strongly. I do not see how the first impression can be aught else than that the people do greatly need the gospel.

With this as an inspiration I settled down to attack the language and to gain as soon as possible an idea of the condition of the Mission affairs. The language is difficult; but it seems to me that in three years one should be able to use it quite effectively, but to

do so in less than two years will be very exceptional.

To obtain an idea of the work of the Mission and its condition is rather difficult. Mr. Underwood is in Japan and almost all of the evangelistic work and the school work has been managed by him. Dr. Heron has his hands more than full; besides a full quota of professional work he has almost all the business affairs of the Mission to superintend, and in consequence is overworked. In Mr. U's absence every one goes to Dr. Heron and he is consulted on so many subjects that I do not wonder that some things have been allowed to drift.

It does seem to me that too much work, or rather too many kinds of work, have been begun at the same time, and being started have grown faster than they could be well managed. Mr. U is our only minister who knows the language. He has translation to attend to and his dictionary to publish, and while attending to that in Japan there is no one to oversee the work of the colporteurs in the various provinces; the orphanage must be left to get along as best it may under the care of those who know little of Mr. U's plans with reference to it; candidates for baptism can not be examined and must wait; the evangelistic work must be conducted with very little intelligent supervision on the part of the mission; and finally our new school building must lie idle with little prospect of opening it for some time on account of lack of force to man it. We cannot enlarge the work (though opportunity offers) for we can hardly manage the work already begun.

Mr. Gifford has had but one year's study on the language. He has the Treasurer's work to attend to, an hour's teaching in the orphanage and an approaching wedding to look after. I am working

at the language and have temporarily taken charge of the orphanage which I believe can be made one of our most efficient means of raising up native workers impressed from their early years with Christian ideas.

We should be sadly handicapped for lack of experienced workers were it not for the presence of Mr. Davies of the Victoria Pres. Church who for many years was a school-master in Australia and for 18 months a missionary in India. He has been here but six months and of course knows but little of the language.

There is plenty of work to be done and opportunities to do it are abundant and no one here questions that. The people very freely visit us and listen earnestly to the gospel. So far as I have learned, our colporteurs find them eager to secure books and tracts. The women especially seem to be ready to be taught. Mrs. Heron has a class of 20 or 30 women at her house every Sunday night. She gives them a gospel talk illustrated by means of a magic lantern. Martha, a native Christian, under direction of Misses Hayden and Davies, teaches a class of women at her house once a week, teaching them the Bible and Catechism. Thus quietly is the seed being sown and we can do all the work of this kind that we have time for, and we shall thus prepare a harvest to be reaped just as soon as we are allowed to carry on our work openly, without opposition either real or nominal.

I know that two conflicting views have been held in the Mission. I am not 'on the fence' as between these views, but I believe the 'middle ground' is the safe plane to occupy, for while there is abundant work for us to do, yet aggressive, *earnest work can be done quietly*. There are at present no signs of opposition to our work, but our position here is not assured, and the present King is not secure

on his throne, and a revolution might bring into power the man who 20 years ago had 20,000 Christians put to death.

I have another impression which I do not believe will change—viz. We need *more men*. It takes at least two years to acquire the language. There is work enough now for a dozen men. Two years from now when those who come shall have acquired the language new stations will probably be opened. Ping An will probably be made an open port and it is the capital of the province where most of our colporteurs' work has been done, and all here feel we must have a station there as soon as it is opened.

Within a half day's journey from Seoul there are probably 200 villages and had we workers with a knowledge of the language I see no reason why we might not have in each village a class under quiet private instruction who would form the nucleuses of churches when we are allowed full liberty.

I pray that in the apportionment of new missionaries this summer Korea may receive more than one or two. I have just heard from Rev. W.M. Baird now at Del Norte, Colo. saying that he hopes to be able to carry out his desire to preach to the heathen and that he expects to be ready for the work next fall. He is my most intimate friend, and we were together in College and Seminary for 8 years. We have hoped that we might work together and so I plead that he be sent to Korea.

I desire further to say just this, that since coming here my strongest feeling has been one of constant gratitude to God that he has led me into this work in Korea. I believe there are great possibilities before this country. The people are intelligent & attractive and when once relieved from official extortion and from the idea that

labor is dishonorable, will develop into a strong people.

I hope to give myself wholly to the work, and shall strive for harmony in all the affairs of the Mission, trusting and believing that we shall be used of God in the moral and spiritual regeneration of the people. As we remember the Board in our prayers asking that you may be guided by the Spirit, so we know that you remember us.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

P.S. The New Manual of the Board has been received. We read and discussed it at our mission meeting last week.

3. July 22, 1890. Seoul. To Dr. Ellinwood.

Have just heard of a special steamer leaving for America and hasten to drop you a few lines to let you know of the serious illness of Dr. Heron. Two weeks ago he was taken with dysentery which has now developed into abscess of the liver. He was so run down by overwork that he was in no condition to stand the attack and while we are doing all that can be done and he has the constant attendance of the two doctors of the Meth. Mission and as careful nursing as we can give him, we all feel that the result is altogether with Him who 'doeth all things well'. We are hoping and praying for his recovery but the result is very uncertain. Please do not tell Mrs. Heron (the Doctor's mother) of this until she hears from Mrs. Heron (the Doctor's wife). The latter is bravely enduring the severe trial and I think has reached the position of submission to His will.

Further information will be sent next week by regular mail.

Hastily and Sincerely,
Samuel A. Moffett

4. July 24, 1890. Seoul. To Dr. Ellinwood.

Your letters to me dated May 9th and to the Mission dated May 10th and June 20th have been received. I wrote you very hurriedly a few days ago concerning the serious illness of Dr. Heron. For two weeks we have all done nothing but to give ourselves unreservedly to his care, hoping, trusting and praying that it might be the Lord's will to spare him. Night before last and again yesterday evening the doctors said there was no hope and we were expecting him to leave us at any moment. However we did not cease to do what could be done and last night there was a slight change so that today our hopes have risen a little. We all (including Mrs. Heron) feel that he is in the Lord's hand and there we rest the question as to whether he shall be spared or taken from us. Should he be taken the blow will be a severe one for it will come just when it seems that we need him most, just when we were getting the work of the mission in a satisfactory condition. For some little while we have been acting in the greatest harmony and a better spirit, a more spiritual tone has pervaded all our work. We have all felt that we were ready for systematic, conservative, aggressive work and were laying our plans accordingly. As you know Mr. Underwood made some concessions in his mode of work and Dr. Heron no longer seeing the necessity for applying the brakes had given free expression to his desire to push the evangelistic work. For some time the doctor has been quite restive under his restrictions in the government hospital and was planning for work which he could give a more

evangelistic turn. I still trust that the Lord will give him the opportunity to carry out these plans for his place will be a hard one to fill. He has been pre-eminently successful as a physician and surgeon not only with Koreans but also with the foreigners having practically held all the foreign practice. The suggestion that he was losing that practice arose merely from the fact that the English legation notified him in advance that when the S. P. G. missionary doctor arrived, their contract would probably not be renewed.

I fear too that his removal might mean the return of Mrs. Heron and we should feel her loss as keenly as that of the Doctor. Their home has been the home of all the new missionaries and almost all have boarded with them. This last year her health has greatly improved, and she has been doing a very important work amongst the women so that we will be sadly crippled if we lose her too.....

The Mission has informally requested me to act as Secretary during the doctor's illness and to write you concerning the May and June meetings.

First—At the May meeting upon the request of the Bible Society Mr. Underwood was given permission to devote special time to translation and the Board is asked to appropriate \$4.00 per month for assistance in translation work and \$6.00 per month for an additional personal teacher. (Mr. Underwood's teacher's time is now all occupied and his wife can no longer use him for her teacher).

Second—At the meeting June 30, Mr. Underwood reported on the publication of the Korean Manual and stated that a full report had been sent to the Board.

Third—The Mission unanimously voted to ask permission from the Board to sell to the S. P. G. mission a piece of property adjoining

the English legation, the property to be sold for \$900. or more (Japanese money). Concerning this request I would say that the property was purchased with a view to building thereon a Girls' School and when Miss Hayden arrived a small Korean thatched house on it was occupied by her for a few months. After a trial she considered it an undesirable location for the school as it was isolated from all other mission property and was not free from danger. The school was transferred to the house formerly occupied by Dr. Allen which upon Miss Doty's arrival was altered at little expense so that it will accomodate from 30 to 50 girls. The property in question is not well situated for a residence for our mission (even though we needed another residence here and we do not) but in connection with two adjoining pieces of property will make a good site for the S. P. G. Mission. They desire to purchase and the Mission desires to sell (at a price which will cause no loss to us) as we see no reason for keeping it now that better arrangements have been made for the Girls' School.

The property cost originally \$649 and was repaired with wall, gate, roof, etc. to extent of \$304.62, making in all \$953.62 or \$710.45 Gold. We will try to get the full amount for it but ask to sell for \$900 if necessary. The question has been before us for several months but we awaited Mr. Underwood's return from Japan in order that we might send a unanimous request.

Fourth—The mission asks for an appropriation of \$167.50 for the purpose of purchasing a small thatched house at the corner of the mission property and to build a wall and gate in its place. Concerning this the house is located in the corner of Mr. Underwood's compound and immediately opposite the orphanage gate.

It is used as a wine shop and is a standing temptation to all our house and orphanage servants and being a resort for Koreans is also a filthy nuisance. It is immediately adjoining the stables in Mr. U's compound. If purchased it gives us the opportunity to build a gate to the stables from the road thus shutting them off from his compound & closing a gate which at present makes his compound a thoroughfare. The appropriation is asked upon an estimated cost.

At the June meeting a committee was appointed to examine Mr. Underwood's translation of the Westminster Catechism and if desirable have it published. A committee was appointed to report a set of by-laws for the Mission and the question of a systematic adjustment of the orphanage finances was referred to this committee.

Your letter of May 10th raises the question as to the location of Dr. Allen and you ask for 'all the facts which we ought to possess in order that we may be guided to right decisions in regard to the occupation of fields'. In response to that request I shall write freely. I sincerely hope that the Board will not send Dr. Allen to Seoul for now that we have such harmony and our work in condition for realizing success I do not wish to see the harmony disturbed and I feel sure that his coming would bring about the spirit of strife & division which has been so happily overcome. Dr. Allen has been engaged in politics and of course has political enemies. If he comes here we immediately subject ourselves to the enmity of those who are very bitter toward him and I know not how much our position here would be affected. Seoul is a political whirlpool and we cannot afford to be compromised in our mission work by drawing upon ourselves political opposition. We expect opposition on spiritual grounds but the great distinction Koreans make between us and the

Jesuits is—that we are not mixed up with politics. Our aim must be to lay stress upon our spiritual mission.

I was greatly disappointed that he did not remain at Fusan. Chemulpo, in the opinion of all, is not a good point for occupation, and preliminary work had been done at Fusan by Mr. Gale of the Knox College Y. M. C. A. of Toronto, who has been there some ten months.

Owing to the sickness of Dr. Heron it might seem desirable to call Dr. Allen here in order to take the work at the hospital but for one I shall be glad to have the hospital unoccupied for a while in the hope that if Dr. Heron is able to resume work he will have the opportunity to give up the hospital altogether or to give it but a small portion of his time. I believe the hospital has done us *great* service but that service being accomplished, I hope to see the Dr. succeed, as he desires, in giving most of his strength and time to work peculiarly our own unhampered by government restrictions.

As to New Fields—It seems to me that we can readily establish a station at Fusan or Ping An if we have another man. It may take six months or a year to accomplish it but the steps can be taken at once. As I said, Mr. Gale has prepared the way at Fusan. I believe we could get him to prepare the way at Ping An. He is a Presbyterian and in hearty sympathy with our work. He lives according to the Korean manner except as to dress and can spend six months very quietly at Ping An preparing the way, but whoever should go there would have to adapt to less comfortable quarters & more inconveniences than we have in Seoul because as yet Ping An is not an open port. I wish we could have the assurance of the Board that it would favor opening a new station there if the way be opened,

Ping An is our most promising province as most of the work of Mr. Ross & of the colporteurs has been done there.

July 25, 1890

Dr. Allen has accepted the position of Secretary to the U.S. Legation and I understand that the Mission will be asked to take some action with reference to it at the regular meeting next week. I have heard that he desires to maintain his connection with the Mission and will ask that we provide a house in Seoul. I know not what action the Mission or the Board will advise but I most earnestly trust that if Dr. Allen retains the political position that he will completely sever his official connection with the Mission. The position is not one under the Korea government and instead of helping us with the Koreans will but cause all the official political actions of the American legation to reflect for good or ill upon the Mission. It will be a combination of politics and missionary effort in which I feel sure the missionary work will be compromised. I do hope the Board will insist upon his being a missionary pure and simple or sever all official connection with the Mission. *Please* give us a chance to do purely missionary work free from all outside combinations and complications.

Of course you will make a distinction between the four things in this letter sent officially from the Mission and the rest which I have written personally.

Sincerely yours in the work.

S. A. Moffett

5. July 29, 1890. Seoul. To Dr. Ellinwood.

Since writing my letter of last week we have suffered the severe loss we were dreading. Dr. Heron passed from us Saturday morning at 8 o'clock. We held services at the house Sunday afternoon and the burial took place Monday afternoon at a place about 4 miles from Seoul which we succeeded in getting the Foreign Office to set aside as a foreign cemetery. It is a beautiful spot overlooking the river and we now have a new interest in the land of Korea. The first foreign grave here is that of the missionary who gave his life to the Korean people. I wish I had the heart to write you something of the great sorrow of the Koreans over his death, of sympathy for Mrs. Heron and of the many, many expressions of love and regard for one who had been so faithful in his service. After the severe strain of the sickness and the feeling of sorrow our bodies are too weak and our hearts too heavy to write much.

Our thoughts turn to Mrs. Heron and her future. Of course the Doctor leaves her practically nothing but a little personal property. I regret exceedingly that his effort a short time ago to obtain life insurance failed through a mere oversight in that the physician's signature to the medical certificate was wanting.

We all hope that Mrs. Heron will stay here for she is prepared to do a work among the women and in connection with the girl's school which no one else could do without several years of training. Mrs. Heron has done more work among the women than anyone else on the field and has a better knowledge of the language than any one except one of the Methodist ladies, I feared she would go

home but hear today that she desires to stay and finish the Doctor's work for Korea. I presume the Mission will take some action with reference to this at the meeting this week.

Dr. Heron's death leaves us practically without a physician. Dr. Allen has accepted the government appointment, but I think we can manage until we have another physician sent us.

I do not think the change in our situation in that respect at all affects the question spoken of in my letter of last week. In that I wrote you very freely for I want to have a perfect understanding with you in all things. Of course whatever action is taken by the Board in all the affairs of the Mission I shall work for harmony in carrying on our work.

Very Sincerely,

S. A. Moffett

6. August 12, 1890. Seoul. To Dr. Ellinwood.

I want to write you just a few lines in addition to my letters of July. At the Mission Meeting July 31 a Committee was appointed to take charge of and settle up the Medical accounts of Dr. Heron.

I trust they will soon be settled and a final report made to the Board. Medical funds were used in purchasing the house which was afterwards remodeled for me with medical funds. I hope the Board will grant our request and sanction the expenditures made on the house, for otherwise I do not see how we are to set up the medical accounts.

My first six months on the Mission field have brought me many an unanticipated experience. It seems to me there has been more than

a fair share of irregularities and misunderstandings in the whole history of the Mission but I trust we are not always to spend our energy and thought in settling difficulties, explaining misunderstandings and planning to avoid complications. I know we are all exceedingly anxious to have a clear understanding of the Board's desires and to work in accordance with the rules of the Board. It is in order to avoid difficulties, to get a clear understanding of the Board's desires and relations to us, and that we may settle down to earnest spiritual work, that the paper signed by us has been sent. I certainly hope that by the time I become a voting member of the Mission we shall be free from all political complications.

I rejoice in the news that Mr. Baird has been appointed to Korea, and rather hope that your suggestion may eventually be carried out and that he and I will be sent to a new station. I am planning now for 2 or 3 months stay in another province in order to study the language and people.

The Toronto Medical Y. M. C. A. have a physician (Dr. Hardy) under appointment to Fusan. He is expected this fall and will work with Mr. Gale. He & Mr. Gale are both Presbyterians and will no doubt work in hearty sympathy with us.

Sincerely yours in the work,
S. A. Moffett

7. Sept. 15, 1890. Hpyeng Yang. To Dr. Ellinwood

Your letter advising a trip of investigation to Fusan and also inquiring about Hpyeng Yang reached us just as I was arranging a month's trip in this direction for the study of the language. Am

satisfied that what you wrote is true that a young missionary is at great advantage in learning the language if free from foreign intercourse, although I believe that here one's first 6 months ought to be spent in Seoul, the center of Korea in everything.

The Mission, believing Hpyeng Yang to be a more important point than Fusan, yet knowing less about it, decided to send some one here to investigate before making a report to you. Upon my return from here one of us may visit Fusan unless we can get from Mr. Gale the information desired. I left Seoul Friday Aug. 29 in company with Mr. Appenzeller, the M.E. presiding elder who was on his annual trip to the northern cities. It is the 2nd city in population and said to be the 2nd in commercial importance, being the center of the Ginseng business and surrounded by a country of very fertile farms. Here Mr. Appenzeller with his local preacher who accompanied him met 5 men, the beginning of their work. I tried but failed to find those whom our men had formerly seen.

Leaving Monday morning we travelled through a most beautiful country of mountains and plains with fine looking crops of rice, millet, buckwheat, beans, sorghum, cotton and tobacco equal to any I have ever seen in the States. Certainly this would be a prosperous people were it under just rule. We passed through a number of good sized cities and villages but I looked in vain for anything like an American farm house situated in the midst of an orchard and surrounded by fields. The farmers all live in the cities or villages and you may see immense plains of growing crops with no sign of a house. They form Charles Dudley Warner's ideal country community, in one point at least, that of neighborliness.

We reached Hpyeng Yang Thursday night having travelled the 550

li in $6\frac{1}{2}$ days, including one day of rest. The city is beautifully located on the Ta Tong river 20 miles from the sea, near enough to be reached by the tides which make it a sea port. The approach from Seoul is through a large plain of growing crops and the view from the city walls in any direction shows similar plains, equally fertile, back of which are high mountains. The city is on one side of, and at the base of, a knoll which, back of the governor's residence rises to quite a height. From this point the view of rivers, plains and mountains is grand. It is the 3rd city in population (about 50,000) and said to be 3rd in commercial importance, being the capital of the province which is rich in minerals & timber, the great silk producing region and with abundant crops of grains and tobacco. It will probably become the most important port as soon as opened.

As yet it is not open to foreign residence, although the Japanese were here for some time this year trading and shipping produce. They have made several attempts to get it opened as a port but have not succeeded. At present there are no Japanese here. The cost of property here is not higher than in Seoul but the cost of living is said to be twice as high. At present my teacher and boy and I are living on about \$1.00 a day for all three of us. Very little has been done here in evangelistic work. The Roman Catholics are said to number 3000 with a French priest living as a Korean in a small place 70 li south of here.

The Methodists have had a local preacher here for some time and at their meeting here on the 7th which I attended there were 18 men present. Their preacher however proving to be dishonest has just been discharged. They also have a teacher at An Tjyou & have

begun work in Eui Tjyou.

Our own work consists of 3 baptized men, 3 reported believers, and several interested friends of these. They are without direction or leadership and have no regular meetings. It is in this province that a great part of our colporteurage work has been done and where Mr. Ross of Moukden and his followers have labored. Here I have been visited by men from six or seven cities. The people are larger, hardier, more independent and have more spirit than those in the south.

I have been here 10 days, living quietly in a Korean inn—going on the street every day exciting considerable interest. The people greatly dislike the Japanese and their manner towards me changes as soon as they know I am an American and not a Japanese. A great many have visited me in my room, many of whom have read considerable of the Bible and some tracts while here; with many I have talked of Christ and with others my teacher has talked, though he is not as yet a baptized believer but quite well acquainted with the Scripture truths.

I intend to stay here several days longer, making sure that it is practicable for a foreigner to live here several weeks at a time, and quietly do evangelistic work.

From here I go by hoat to Chyang Yen in Western Whang Hai Do where we have a number of believers. After staying there a week will return to Seoul stopping a day or two at Hai Tjyou the capital of the province and another day at Syong To, reaching Seoul after almost a 6 weeks trip.

I am satisfied that coming here to permanently reside and open a new station is at present out of the question, though how soon it

will be possible is uncertain, and I am also satisfied that we ought to occupy this point just as soon as it is possible, whether we establish a station at Fusan or not. To prepare for entering here my idea would be to have a man reside in Seoul, but 3 times a year in company with a native evangelist take just such a trip as I am now taking, stopping here 3 or 4 weeks, giving instruction to believers, meeting inquirers, developing interest and removing prejudice. After a trip or two, if practicable a Korean house could be bought for about \$300—in a place suitable for permanent mission station—part of it cleaned and fitted for occupancy by the missionary while here and put in charge of a native Christian with whom the missionary would board while here. This could also serve as a meeting place during the whole year. On the same trips preliminary work could be done in Syong To and Hai Tjyou and the work at Chyang Yen receive attention. Taking 6 or 8 weeks out of every 4 months, the balance of the time spent in Seoul could be given to evangelistic & educational work. Fusan can be entered at once but if entering Fusan means delay in beginning work here or diminishing the force in Seoul, I should urge that instead of entering Fusan now, another man work the Southern provinces in the same way until we have force enough to start the new station.

This raises the question of our force in Seoul. In your letter you say “we ought not to put all our eggs in one basket”—but—it depends on how many eggs you have. We certainly need not less than 5 men in Seoul for work exclusively in Seoul & immediate neighborhood. Seoul will always be the center of work & the most important point.

The Methodist brethren realize this and are to open 4 preaching places there this fall and have their educational work & press work

under headway, with 5 men and all the money they want. Of course the Presbyterians will have to do the bulk of the translation work & Mr. Underwood's time will be given to that and to training a theological class. Mr. Gifford is Treasurer and will teach in orphanage and do evangelistic work. Of course we need a physician. Now if we are to do anything like the evangelistic work possible, or if we are to give the orphanage the supervision needed to get from it the good results which we ought to & can get or if we are to open the school which is now lying idle we must have at least two other ministers. These 5 with two men for work in provinces preparatory to leading to new stations make 7 and by the time the new stations are opened we will need at least two more so as to leave 5 men permanently in Seoul. We have but 3 men and 1 under appointment. Of these Mr. Underwood alone has the language. Mr. Gifford has not been here two years and one cannot be expected to do any independent work in the language in less than 2 years, especially if he has as many business affairs & various complications to take up time—as we have had during the last six months.

The Board has appointed 8 men and 5 single ladies to Korea and expended considerable money, yet it is not the fault of the field that three of the ladies married, one withdrew, and that Mr. Gardner withdrew, Dr. Power was removed, and Dr. Allen retired, while Dr. Heron was removed by death; so that now we have but 3 men, 1 single lady and Mrs. Heron. I am more than rejoiced to know of Mr. Baird's appointment and only hope you may send us two more such men at once. I suppose we shall have physicians appointed to take Dr. Heron's and Dr. Allen's places.

Looking ahead two years when the men that are sent now will

have a working knowledge of the language it seems to me imperative that 2 men should be sent at once. In two years we shall almost without doubt have established or be ready to establish stations at Hpyeng Yang and Fusan, requiring 4 men—2 men of a little experience and probably 2 new men. Mr. Underwood will be going to America for a year and as your letter indicates that Mr. Baird and I will be sent to new station, it will leave Mr. Gifford with very little assistance unless men are sent at once. I am perfectly willing and ready to go to new station with Mr. Baird, especially as it will be the fulfillment of what for years we have hoped we might be able to do, yet the work in Seoul ought not to be insufficiently manned.

Perhaps I will see things differently after years of experience but can only write as I see them now. Will write you again upon my return to Seoul & give whatever further information I may obtain. Hoping that the information obtained may be what you desired and be helpful in deciding as to our work—with kindest regards, I am.

Sincerely yours

Samuel A. Moffett

8. Oct. 20, 1890. Seoul. To Dr. Ellinwood.

I wrote you Sept. 15 from Hpyeng Yang stating that that point is not yet open for permanent residence and suggested that on account of its importance as a strategic point it should be visited several times a year until the right of permanent residence can be secured.

I ascertained that a house of about 20 kan (a kan is a small room

8 ft. square) in good location can be purchased for about 200,000 small cash equal to \$300 or \$400 according to varying rate of cash.

I left Hpyeng Yang by boat in order that I might see the port Chyel Do which the Japanese have made repeated attempts to have opened. Discovered that the city of Hpyeng Yang is farther from the sea than the Koreans had represented, for it is 100 li (30 miles) to Chyel Do, which is situated at the point where the Ta Tong River enters the bay. Chyel Do is a small official village of some 25 houses where taxes are collected, built on side of a hill at the water's edge. I judge that it is a very healthful location.

From here, on account of a frail and leaky boat and heavy winds, we went up one arm of the bay and landed, going to Anak where we stayed over Sunday and thence overland to Chyang Yen in two days.

We reached Anak on market day and the market space was crowded with thousands of people from the whole country round about. Every five days they have this Fair Day and it will present splendid opportunities for street preaching. From Anak we passed through a rather sparsely settled mountainous country and through the gold regions to a group of small villages in the Chang Yen magistracy. Here we have what appeared to me the most promising and successful work which has been done in Korea. In this country neighborhood-where I stayed 8 days-we have some 15 baptized Christians who meet regularly for study of the Word. From there has come our native Evangelist and a colporteur and our most intelligent Christians. It is the only neighborhood in which I heard of no Roman Catholics. Under foreign supervision this might become a small but

influential center of Protestantism, for there we reach the middle class of Koreans—those most free from the moral and political corruption of the country, the class which will certainly become the “back-bone” of new Korea.

From there a six days journey brought me back to Seoul, though on the way I spent half a day in Hlai Tjyou, the capital of Whang Hai Do, and the prettiest & cleanest city of the country, and spent Sunday in Syong To.

I reached Seoul after a journey of some 500 miles having learned something of the language, considerably more of the people, the country and the customs, and with a more intelligent conception of the task which is before us in seeking to evangelize this nation. I also proved to my own satisfaction that I can keep well and strong for some time living almost exclusively on Korean food and in the Korean manner. I came back and at once had to enter upon the consideration of the many little perplexing problems of mission affairs concerning the more important of which I wish now to write you.

We have fully discussed the question of new stations, have inquired of Mr. Gale concerning Fusan and interviewed our Korean workers from Seoul and the northern provinces and as a result have unani- mously agreed that we ought at once to enter Fusan and Eui Tjyou.

The Koreans agree that outside of Seoul, Hpyeng Yang is by far the most important point and Fusan next, but say that we cannot enter Hpyeng Yang now and can enter Eui Tjyou (in the province where most seed has been sown); we ought to go there next and then enter Fusan. They say, and we think rightly, that Hpyeng Yang can be worked from Eui Tchyoun until such time as we can enter there. Mr. Gale and Dr. Hardie expect to go to Eui Tjyou in the spring

and want us to send a man with them. They will not organize work but their instructions are to work with whatever church is on the field. If we send a man with them we can reap the results of their work and organize it. They expected to buy Korean houses and adapt to their use with but little alteration and I believe by following the same policy we can occupy that field at little expense and at the same time reach Koreans more effectively than by building foreign houses.

The expense of living in Eui Tjyou will be considerably more than in Seoul because of the distance over which all goods would have to be transported.

As to Fusan—now that Hpyeng Yang is closed, we are in the opinion that Fusan should be opened at once, and have asked for a physician and one minister to be sent there. The Board evidently intended sending two ministers and a physician but unless in addition to that you will send us one man for the North we believe only one minister should be sent to Fusan.

I should like to put in word just here with reference to myself. If you intended to send a physician and Mr. Baird to Fusan I wish very much I might go there also—if you will give us another man to take my place here and a man to go North. If that is not best I should like to go to Eui Tchyu with Mr. Cale and Dr. Hardie if you will send another man here. The members of the mission have expressed their opinion that the force here should remain unchanged, but I could do better work outside of Seoul. It is difficult to learn the language where so much English is spoken and the social demands are too numerous. In addition—without desiring to criticize what has been done, I should like to begin work on a somewhat different

basis. I believe we have begun wrong end foremost and planted schools and institutions without the preliminary years of evangelistic work which they had in China & Japan. We are not ready for schools. There is no demand for English education and we have not the force with which to man Korean schools.

I am now trying to solve the orphanage problem which has come under my care. We can get all the boys we want if we will clothe and feed them but the question with me is—What is *now* the object of the orphanage and is it accomplishing that object? It has done good and accomplished the object for which it was established, viz. : to help open the country for our work.

We are seeking to bring the expenses within the reduced appropriation. Mr. Gale is superintending it for three months and then I will take complete charge until its future is decided upon. Of this I will write you again.

If, after arrival of re-enforcements it seems best that I should remain in Seoul and the new arrivals go to new stations, so it must be, tho' I should prefer to go to the country.

We are settling down to work though the absence of Dr. Heron is keenly felt. Mrs. Heron has begun work among the wives of the officials who were friends of Dr. Heron and has met a very cordial reception. She has also begun a sewing class having a native read to the group of women while they sew.

The Methodists have been re-enforced by the arrival of a lady physician and a lady teacher and I understand there is prospect of a satisfactory settlement of the difficulties between them and Dr. McGill, though the Scotch Presbyterian blood in his veins makes it difficult for him to work under their system.

Most earnestly praying that we may be speedily re-enforced and that the blessing of the Spirit may rest upon your work and ours.

Sincerely Yours

Samuel A. Moffett

P. S. Mr. Gale says a large tract of land can be purchased in Fusan for \$100. This is situated on a hill in a healthful location and large enough—for two or three houses. A foreigner now living there is building a house with Japanese carpenters—for \$1200. The house is perhaps a little larger and more elaborately decorated than we would wish to build. If you will give us two men and \$2500 we believe we can occupy that field.

9. Nov. 17, 1890. Seoul. To Dr. Ellinwood.

If I do not stand a first class examination in the language at the end of the first year, I think I will have a right to put in a plea for leniency. Mr. and Mrs. Underwood have been compelled to go to Chefoo on account of Mrs. U's health and Mr. Gifford has been laid up for two weeks with "La Grippe". Consequently I have been forced to look after hundreds of little & big things which, much as I regretted it, have interfered with my language study.

I feel quite uneasy about Mr. and Mrs. Underwood. Dr. Scranton says they ought by all means to go to America next spring—that neither of them is at all well. Mr. Underwood is of that disposition which is loth to admit that he is not strong and well but he has had several spells of nausea and fainting and admits that he cannot do as much hard work as he could a year or two ago.

If he goes to America in the spring I am afraid my prospects for leaving Seoul are not very bright, but I hope Baird will not be kept

here longer than six months. Mr. Gale is practically one of us and is looking after Mr. U's evangelistic work in his absence and is living at and superintending the orphanage which has been placed under my care. Together we are working to get the orphanage upon a somewhat different basis and to bring the expenses within the appropriation. The latter however will be impossible as four months of this year it was run on the old plan before we knew the appropriation had been cut down. At the special meeting of the Mission held just before Mr. Underwood left for China I asked that the Board be requested to give us permission to use for orphanage a part of the \$500 appropriated for support of boys in school. The school has not been and cannot be opened, but I think the orphanage will gradually change its character so that it will more properly be termed a Boys' School and the appropriation will thus be used as was intended. We have "weeded out" the boys, sending back to their friends a number who gave no promise of becoming good students or useful men; have placed a Christian teacher over the boys and made the Chinese Bible a text-book.

Mr. Gale expects to go to Eui Tjyou in December but his knowledge of the language will have enabled us to get the orphanage in such condition that we will have a more definite idea of its financial affairs.

If Mr. Gale settles in the north we will have a splendid chance to start a work through him if we can send one man with him. He knows the language well, and knows Koreans. He is a thorough Presbyterian, but will work with whatever church is on the field. I have written this hastily and perhaps not very accurately but with the desire to keep you informed of the condition of this kaleidoscopic

field.

Sincerely yours

S. A. Moffett

P. S. I have a younger brother now attending Union Seminary. If you are ever at the seminary I wish that he could meet you. (Thomas C. Moffett, at Union Seminary, New York)

10. Nov. 4, 1890. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

Your letter of Sept. 9 received. I am very glad to feel assured that the Board understands the situation here and to know that you have taken the action you did in reference to Dr. Allen. He has and I think will show himself friendly to our work and I hope in his position may help in getting a new treaty which will give us *liberty* to teach Christianity.

I have word from Mr. Baird that he will sail Dec. 18th. I hope the way may be open for him to go to new station as soon as he has had a few months experience in Seoul, long enough to know on what basis he wants to begin work.

At Oct. Mission meeting a committee was appointed to write you full particulars of the present condition and prospects of affairs relating to the hospital. As soon as inquiries can be made I presume you will hear.

I enclose "Suggestions for Outfit and Journey" for Korea Mission—which I hope will reach you in time to be of use to the second physician you send us—if not for the first. The list is approved by the entire mission.

Very Sincerely

S. A. Moffett

11. February 11, 1891. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

Your letter of Nov. 24 was gladly received and your recent letters to the Mission have made us all rejoice in the prospect of re-enforcements. As you will see from our request for new missionaries we believe the time has come to be ready for a steady progress in bringing the gospel into contact with this people and we are especially desirous of pushing evangelistic work among men and *women*. In addition to the reports sent you at this time I have but a few words to add bearing upon the way in which my time has been occupied this last year. I came fully determined that nothing should interfere with my study of the language, but found such a peculiarly disturbed condition of things here that my duty seemed to be to first of all seek to bring about harmony of action in the mission, to bring order out of chaos, and consequently while inwardly protesting I have felt compelled to give considerable time to solving mission problems, straightening financial matters, re-adjusting the orphanage, and to the adoption of rules for the mission so as to avoid the friction which has resulted from having no settled policy.

The existing situation has demanded some "red tape" but I believe it will help us to harmonious action and at the same time leave us more free to devote ourselves to the language and the people instead of to a succession of discussions on every question which may or can be raised.

The orphanage was practically without supervision and subject to many abuses and I felt forced to give it attention. It is not yet in a satisfactory condition for it is far more difficult to re-adjust a school than it is to begin at the beginning, especially when one has

so little knowledge of the language and customs. The Mission has approved the suggestion that it be converted into a Boys' School furnishing only partial support—and I believe it ought at once to be turned over to the charge of one especially adapted to school work and who will have permanent charge of the educational work.

You seem to be under the impression that we have had both a Boys' School and an orphanage but the latter alone has been established. The building which was erected for a school has never been so used. It is now planned to convert it into a dwelling for the new Doctor who can use the outbuildings for a dispensary or hospital for which they are admirably adapted. We hope also that the new Doctor may take up the government hospital under more favorable conditions.

Mr. and Mrs. Baird have arrived and are settled in my house where they will probably remain for a year, as in the judgment of the Mission they should have one year of work on the Seoul dialect before going to Fusan. During the year land will be purchased and arrangements made for building.

My first year having been so divided between language study and the details & problems of Mission work I begin the second year more free for language study. With this in view Mr. Gale and I have arranged for a 3 or 4 months itinerary when we expect to do considerable language study and evangelistic work. We will visit Syong To and Ping An which I visited last fall and then go further north to Eui Ju crossing into China to see how thickly the border land is peopled with Koreans and to see the result of Mr. Ross's work there; thence we will return by way of Gensan.

Have just heard that Ping An (the unpronounceable name of my fall letter—I'll follow the English spelling hereafter) is to be opened

to foreigners in which case I doubt not the Mission will ask for two men to go there just as soon as the Board is able to send them. Mr. Gale and I will thus visit each point, except Fusan, which we hope to see entered and upon our return will have more of the language and be better prepared to plan for opening new stations. It is difficult to plan very far ahead because of the numerous and sudden changes on the field. When I wrote you last Dr. Hardie and Mr. Gale expected to settle in Eui Ju but since then their plans have been completely frustrated. I understand that Dr. Hardie will leave Korea and enter the Canadian Methodist Mission in Japan and Mr. Gale received word from his Committee that he would have to come home next fall. This has led the latter to apply to you for appointment as he has become thoroughly interested in the work among Koreans and does not wish to leave it. His application has been unanimously endorsed by the Mission and we are rejoicing in the prospect of having him work as one of us. He is an out-and-out missionary, a splendid student, a spiritually minded man and a most agreeable companion in work. He has good command of the Korean language and a hold upon the hearts of Koreans and seems to me is just the man we want to open a new station. If appointed he will have been on the field nearly three years. His teacher is one of the best instructed Christians and will make a valuable helper. He & his teacher could be sent to Ping An, Eui Ju, and Gensan and begin work there at very little expense and *we would thus see without delay what we have longed for—namely—work begun on a permanent basis outside of Seoul.*

The Lord has dealt the Korea Mission some pretty severe blows but now he is certainly revealing a brighter side of things. I believe there are rich blessings in store for our work in Korea and we pray

that the Board will be enabled to give us many new men.

I have but one thing more to mention and that is with reference to letter writing. I have not been able to write anything for the papers, it being rather difficult for me to do so under any circumstances, but have written to several Missionary Societies, Mission Boards and Christian Endeavor Societies. With the numerous letters you have to write you appreciate the difficulty of doing all that one wishes in this respect. With kindest regards to all.

Sincerely yours

Samuel A. Moffett

12. February 23, 1891. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

With this mail goes the application of Mr. Gale which the Mission instructed Mr. Underwood & me as a Committee to forward with the endorsement of the Mission.

Your letter of Jan. 5 to the Mission received today. It places our school in rather a peculiar position. The appropriation is exhausted and unless we draw on the \$500 allowed for boys' school it must close at once. I so reported at last meeting of Mission and in the emergency they approved an order on the treasurer although the appropriation is exhausted. The orphanage is *now* a boys' school and in fair way to become a helpful factor in our work. The boys now there are receiving thorough Biblical instruction and a solid foundation in Chinese.

I believe I have given particulars in other letters and trust you will have just such information as you desired.

I do not see how Mr. and Mrs. Underwood can help going home this fall and hope if they do we shall have Mr. Gale to take up

part of his work.

Very Sincerely

S. A. Moffett

P.S. Since writing the above your letter of Jan'y 7 to me has been received. It was delayed a little on account of postage due. I think your questions will in great part be answered by the report made at annual meeting. I cannot give you very satisfactory accounts of the financial affairs of the orphanage as they have not been in my hands except for a few months.

Heretofore students were received and provided with a home for the whole year, food, clothing, instruction, etc. The native superintendent drew money as needed and so far as I could learn rendered no account of it. This was changed in Sept. and new men employed who render account to me & receive all funds from me, but as yet I can give no accurate reports as to expense as only part of year has been covered and that the most expensive time of year. Boys are now received only on condition that they go home during summer and furnish partial support. The building is a native one adjoining Mr. Gifford's house and in front of Mr. Underwood's & my compounds. It is large—all one story—and has three parts, one the superintendent's quarters, one containing kitchen, dining room and boys sleeping rooms, and one the Chinese school, the latter a separate building. It is admirably adapted for use as a native school of any kind, high or low, and is valuable property to the mission.

I am not a draughtsman but will ask Mr. Gale to prepare a pen and ink sketch of the city such as you desire if he can find time for it before leaving for the trip to the country.

I am more than busy today and this is written very hastily but I

trust will help to throw light upon the question. We ought to have \$300 of the \$500 for running the school the three months of Feb. Mar. and April.

Very Sincerely Yours
S. A. Moffett

13. February 24, 1891. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

At my request Mr. Gale very hastily prepared the rough sketch of Seoul which will give you some idea of the location of Mission property. He promises a more accurate one upon his return from the country.

I am not able to give you an estimate of the value of the different properties because of insufficient knowledge but trust upon conference we shall be able to send you a correct estimate ere long. The property has not cost the Mission nearly as much as its present value—the Boys' School for instance worth some \$2,000 having cost only \$450.

I can only give you an idea of value of some of the property as I have learned their cost.

Mr. Gifford's House & Lot	(Gold value)	\$ 3000
Boys School		2000
"Lower School"		4000
Property adjoining English Legation		800
Mr. Moffett's House & Lot (occupied by Mr. Baird)		1000

This is just a rough estimate.

Mr. Baird & Mr. Underwood have just started for Fusan. Hope to write you from Eui Ju.

Sincerely
S. A. Moffett

14. March 25, 1891. Eui Ju, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood

Before mentioning the important business which causes me to write this letter now, I will give you a brief report of our trip to this place.

Mr. Gale and I with Mr. Saw, our native evangelist, left Seoul Feb'y 25 for a tramp to North Korea. We took 2 horses to carry our blankets, books, etc., but concluded to make the journey on foot as we wanted to be free to stop anywhere without having the expense of paying for so many horses. We have come 1060 li (350 miles) and have preached the gospel in city, town & village all along the way. Our evangelist is a thorough Christian & a man who commands respect & attention everywhere. He preaches & teaches the plain truths of the gospel from an experience of 15 years, being one of those who came to us through Mr. Ross of Moukden.

We stayed in Ping Yang five days having service there on Sunday. The Mission had given me authority to purchase a house there under the \$400 appropriation of the Board, but as we have not yet a reliable man to put in charge the purchase was not made. I was again impressed with the desirability of having a Christian worker there and have some hopes that one of the two professing Christians there will develop into a trustworthy man. We found several inquirers there, but the people are as yet very suspicious of foreigners and afraid of Christian books. We reached this city of Eui Ju on the border of China on March 20, having enjoyed the walk, kept in good health and as I believe had a very successful trip so far as evangelistic work is concerned.

It is in reference to this place that I wish to write. Mr. Under-

wood has always laid great emphasis upon the importance of opening a station here and I now understand why. We have been most delightfully surprised at the condition of things here. We find a body of from 20 to 30 Christians, many of them at work and freely talking of the gospel. On Sunday there were 30 present at service and we have been having visitors morning, afternoon & night with whom we are having Bible readings while our evangelist and the evangelist located here have been in another room talking all day & late into the night concerning the gospel. The people here are not afraid of the gospel as they are so near China that they have heard of it for 20 years. Here is the center of the work done by Mr. Ross & he now has a colporteur here who has been distributing books along the border. Our evangelist located here, Mr. Paik, was one of Ross' first converts, has been a Christian for about 17 years and was the first man to speak to our Seoul evangelist who came from here & who has been a Christian 15 years. Here also lives the man who assisted Mr. Ross in his Korean translation of the New Testament. A number of the lower officials here are professing Christians and also a number of merchants so that all classes are favorably disposed. One of the Christians who attended the Theol. Class in Seoul lives 40 miles from here and reports a class of 10 men whom he has been teaching and who desire baptism.

The Methodists also have a colporteur here and have a native house for the center of their work & in this the missionaries stay while here. When I saw Ping Yang last year I thought we ought to begin work here at once and I still think so but I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that this is a far more urgent case and that I should be willing to see Ping Yang wait several years rather than

delay entering here.

Mr. Gale and I have made inquiries concerning a house here and find a splendid large house, or rather two houses connected, in center of a field large enough to ensure sunlight & fresh air. This place can be bought for from \$400 to \$500 and I hope if the mission approves that soon after we return to Seoul about June 1st the Board will give us permission to buy here instead of or in addition to Ping Yang.

Then if the way be clear and the Board appoints Mr. Gale as a member of the mission, it seems to me he is just the man to come here, occupy this house, and then the station is opened. Mr. Gale speaks the language freely, has lived in Korean houses & on Korean food most of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ years he has been here and has won the hearts of the Koreans.

From here we expect to go to Moukden to see Mr. Ross concerning his work along the border of Korea, after which we hope to visit those towns in which it is reported there are a number of Christians & inquirers. This borderland has as yet not been visited by a foreigner and no one certainly knows just how densely it is populated by Koreans.

I write of Eui ju now hoping that you will give permission to buy a house here—if the mission approves—and that we may hear from you soon after our return to Seoul.

The seed which has been sown here has been sown principally by Presbyterians and we ought to reap this harvest which is now ready. Whoever first sends a foreigner here will of course naturally give instruction to these Christians.

This has been written hurriedly and in the midst of the confusion

of the talk of a lot of Koreans but I think my point is plain.

Yours Sincerely,

Samuel. A. Moffett

15. May 21, 1891. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

I am again in Seoul after a most enjoyable and profitable three months trip to the North and desire to give you a brief account of the journey. I wrote you from Eui Ju urging its importance and requesting the permission to buy a house there. The Mission has approved the request and I sincerely trust we may be able to get a foothold there, for to my mind our work there is just now more imperatively demanding direction than the work in Seoul. We have more baptized members there than in Seoul. There are more applicants for baptism and more sincere inquirers and among them all there is but one man who receives any financial aid from the Mission. We took this man—the evangelist—with us on our trip and just now I am giving him a series of Bible Readings for the instruction of the applicants there when he returns.

With the purpose of investigating the work done by Mr. Ross and his converts in the North of Korea & in the Korean valleys across the boundary in China we visited Moukden and from there went directly East to Korea, journeying through one of the Korean valleys and the North of Korea. Our visit in Moukden was one of the most profitable parts of the trip and our talks with Mr. Ross give us an insight into his Korean work. With the information there obtained we started for the Korean valleys and I think have satisfactorily settled the fact that the work can be better done from China than from Korea as those valleys are almost unapproachable from our side.

We spent two weeks among the mountains of China & North Korea, finding the region sparsely settled, poor, and so nearly destitute of food that we have given it the name of Starvation Camp as we lived on boiled oats & millet most of that time. Finding it impossible as well as undesirable to go clear across the North we came down through the middle of Korea to the East reaching Ham Heung, the capital of the province, and on the way from there stopping at Gensan, the Eastern treaty port. In this region we found what we consider the most beautiful & most wealthy and apparently the most prosperous region of Korea and we feel the importance of opening work there as soon as the work already begun has proper oversight, and the places more imperatively demanding men are supplied.

From an evangelistic point of view I think the journey a most successful one. We were able to preach in cities, towns and villages to hundreds of people who had never heard the gospel. We found them ready to listen and time and again we found men eager to know more and with the Chinese Bible and our evangelists the pure gospel was taught to a great many. The seed was sown. I doubt not there will be fruit. We had not an unpleasant experience on the whole trip the people and officials being very courteous although their curiosity was so great that we could hardly get a half hour alone.

The North is open for successful work, the people in no way being opposed to the teaching of Christianity and in that region the Roman Catholics have as yet little hold. As yet I know little of the South but have the impression that the prejudice against foreigners is much greater and the work quite difficult, although I have a number of visitors from the South who are ready to listen.

The trip was a success in language study and I also came back in

splendid health which I hope I shall not destroy by over work, although there are so many opportunities to work that the temptation is great. Am deeply sorry to find that Mr. and Mrs. Underwood left in such poor health. His absence necessarily stops some departments of our work but leaves our hands more than full. I know the difficulty you labor under in getting suitable men for the field but I pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into this ripe corner of his vineyard. Mr. Gifford is not strong nor well and has nearly broken down. Miss Doty has too much work for one person as it confines her so closely that she is becoming mentally distressed which is more wearing than sickness. My country trip relieved me from the monotony and strain of attention to innumerable details of mission affairs so that I do not share in any of the depression here. The Mission are all agreed as to the importance of having another lady to share Miss Doty's work, giving each of them leisure for work among women outside, thus varying their work. The work for women is very promising with Mrs. Gifford & Mrs. Heron coming more and more into closer contact with them in their homes

Now just a word with reference to my letters to you. I should greatly prefer to feel free to write you pretty fully as to the way things appear to me and of what we are doing, knowing that you will not publish them. I was a little surprised to find an extract of my letter in *The Church at Home and Abroad*, not that there was anything in it which I objected to having published but it was a hurried letter of notes not written in a style for publication.

I will send by next mail a short description of our trip for *The Church at Home and Abroad* if the publication of it meets your

approval. We are more than pleased at having Dr. & Mrs. Vinton with us and look for successful medical work.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

P. S. Please let me know if you received the letter which contained "Suggestions for Outfit for Korea". I understand that Dr. & Mrs. Vinton had but very meager suggestions and I think the one I sent was quite full.

16. **July 2, 1891.** (Recd. Jul.28) Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood

Your letter of May 6th was received with pleasure and I am glad you are satisfied with the changes in the orphanage which now gives promise of doing *real*, good work. The two teachers give every evidence of being earnest Christians and with my gradual increase in knowledge of language and customs I am more and more able to understand its workings and plan intelligently for it. Have been waiting quite anxiously for word concerning appropriations for it and we are all disappointed in not getting the Board letters directed to Mr. Underwood which were forwarded to him at Chicago by Mrs. Bunker.

We feel quite sure that in them was information concerning Mr. Gale and we are placed in a most unsatisfactory position. Mr. Gale's Committee write to him urging him to maintain his connection with them. In justice to them he cannot continue drawing funds from them if he is not to continue as their missionary. He feels that he must let them know definitely what his movements will be and as abundant time has been allowed to hear from our Board he cannot keep his Committee waiting. As your answer was probably in the

letter to Mr. Underwood the Mission at the meeting June 30th authorized me to cable you if the next mail brings no word about Gale. This will explain the reasons for the cablegram if it is sent.

In regard to Dr. Allen you have certainly been alarmed by false rumors concerning his relations to us. My personal relations with him are as cordial and pleasant as any one could ask and he is ever ready to do all he can to help us in our work and is indeed a great help to us in his present position. His relations with Mrs. Heron while naturally not those of an intimate friend are perfectly pleasant and free from all "gossip" on this side of the ocean.

Dr. Allen certainly has no grievance against the mission and our new missionaries can see no "ripple of the old quarrels". I think I have never written an unkind thing of Dr. Allen personally—but I did oppose his occupying the two positions of Missionary and Diplomatic Politician. He is now in the line of work in which it seems to me he can be most useful and I write this only in order to remove the mis-apprehension under which I believe you have written several letters.

Our work continues to open up on all sides bringing with it more opposition on the part of the friends of the Christians. One of those who recently professed faith in Christ has been beaten by his relatives—but his adherence to the faith gives promise of good things.

Grateful to God for the advance in the contributions of the church, we earnestly pray that this will enable you to send recruits to Korea.

The rumor that Dr. Gillespie is to visit the mission fields is welcome news.

Very Sincerely Yours,

S. A. Moffett

of the Church, we earnestly pray that this will enable you to send recruits to Korea.

The rumor that Dr. Gillespie is to visit the mission fields is welcome news.

Very Sincerely yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

17. Sept. 17, 191 (Recd. Oct. 20). Seoul, Korea; to Dr. Ellinwood.

"In a few days I shall be off for another trip to the North as far as Eui Ju, it being my desire to spend a couple of months in the country every spring and fall until I am able to speak the language with some fluency. By that time or before, I hope the Mission will see its way clear to send me to Fusan or to an interior station south, where together with Mr. Baird I may have oversight of country work which will take me on a trip every spring and fall not primarily for language but for direct evangelistic work and instruction of Christians.

Before I get off I want to write you concerning the present situation of our affairs & plans with comments showing how they appear to me.

First-- Concerning the cablegram about Mr. Gale's appointment--I explained the reason for sending it in a previous letter. Dr. Gillespie's reply shows that one of your letters concerning Mr. Gale was lost and I cannot avoid thinking that a letter to Mr. Gale must have been lost for he has never received any communication from the Board concerning his application.

When I called you I took it for granted that you were registered and so merely cabled "Ellinwood, New York". I received a reply from the Bureau saying "Your Ellinwood undelivered address removed from 36 West 59th Street Whereabouts unknown" and so I was compelled to cable to the Bureau again giving your 53 Fifth Ave. address. I hope we shall not soon again have an emergency demanding the expense incident to cabling but if we should will be glad to know your cable address.

Second-- The request of the Mission for \$600.00 to fit up the so-called Lower School building as a residence for Mr. Gale. The building in its location is by far the best adapted for direct contact with the people and with the Korean building belonging to it can be made a center for an unusual amount of work of various kinds. It is situated on an elevation and has large grounds making it probably as beautiful as a place can be inside the city walls. I had thought it well adapted for use as a hospital and had hoped to see it so used but Dr. Vinton declared the place and building absolutely out of the question for that purpose. It has been idle for 4 years and if kept for a school (its original purpose) will probably

remain idle for 10 years more. Our present Boys School can accomodate 50 boys and will answer all purposes for a long time. The experience of the K.E. school which when I came had 80 pupils and now has 10 shows that there is no demand for an English teaching school which does not feed & clothe the pupils.

As for Mr. Gale's plans -- I wrote you from Eui Ju that he and I had discluded the plan of having him open and occupy that point by means of protracted stays there. But on a mission field you can never tell what turn affairs will take and Mr. Gale's move in the matrimonial line necessitates a change in the Eui Ju plan while it opens up a plan for ~~xxxx~~ for work in Seoul which promises very happy results. Mr. Gale has written you confidentially of his expected marriage to Mrs. Heron and we are all unanimous in supporting their request for the occupation of this Lower School building. This will not leave Mrs. Heron's house vacant even tho Dr. Vinton's plan (mentioned further on) is not carried out, for the missionaries soon to arrive will need to be provided for and if Mr. Underwood returns in the spring as Mrs. Underwood writes they expect to, Dr. Vinton will have to be provided for.

I feel that Mr. Gale is well adapted to make good use of the place and I see no disadvantages connected with this disposition of the property. Mrs. Heron's house, as you know, is just back of and close to the Underwood house and while I have no fear of any reversion to the old misunderstandings of the past, the possibility of any such will be still further obviated by the carrying out of this plan, and as ~~xxx~~ Mr. Underwood and Mr. Gale's lines of work and methods of work are somewhat different, their separation will tend rather than otherwise to efficiency and freedom along their own lines and ideas. Mr. Gale will there have much freer access to the people because Koreans who come here to the foreign settlement are immediately placed under suspicion by their friends and relatives. We greatly need another point for work in the city and personally I wish we could scatter out and occupy several points.

It may be that my view of this is somewhat colored by the fact that Mr. Gale's establishment in Seoul will enable me the more quickly to ask the Mission to send me to Pusan, but aside from that the plan seems an excellent one.

Third-- Medical Work. The Government Hospital is still under our charge, and I believe Dr. Vinton is now agreed that it is best to retain it even tho its contribution to our work is only an indirect one giving us prestige among the people and certain considerations from the officials. However, Dr. V. is satisfied that its work will be mainly

that of a dispensary and he has his plans for building a mission hospital which I believe he has communicated to you. At the last meeting of the Mission he proposed his plans, desiring that we request an appropriation to build a house on a hill about 2 miles outside the South Gate near the main road leading to the 3 southern provinces. Not willing that the Doctor should have his hands so full to the neglect of the language the first year, and feeling that a full year on the field may modify his plans - the Mission postponed consideration of the plan until spring, stating however, its approval of the main features of his plan provided certain things take place and the distribution of our forces will warrant it.

Among other things the question arises whether the Board will give us two physicians for Seoul, it being in our view necessary to have two since we retain control of the Government hospital. With two physicians, each could have relief at times -- could attend the government hospital and Royal practice, establish a Mission hospital, a house dispensary; and each be free at times for itinerating trips without which they will find it difficult to get the language.

The plan suggested to my mind has been to ask you to leave Dr. and Mrs. Brown in Seoul, giving them charge of the Government hospital & Royal practice, while Dr. Vinton goes outside the city and carries out his plan of building an efficient hospital (with funds collected outside of the Board). This came to me when Dr. Vinton wished to give up the Government Hospital (as he wrote to you) but since his views on that have changed, he might be unwilling to put it in Dr. Brown's hands. However, the near future will probably tell, but I do not see how we are to have the government hospital and another hospital and another hospital in which we can do direct evangelistic work, unless we have two physicians here. Fusan can wait a short while for a physician since Dr. Hardie of Canada is there and will work in connection with Mr. Baird.

This summer has been a pretty hard one for most of those who stayed in Seoul, but thanks to our trip to the mountains we escaped sickness and have come back well and vigorous, ready for fall work. Mr. Gifford is off for a short trip south. Mr. Baird has gone to Fusan to build, and Mr. Gale is at work in the Lower School building.

The Boys' School has opened for the fall & winter term and I am seeking for students who will provide part of their own support. Will have a few such this year and hope to gradually increase the number and also the amount of support furnished by them. Am satisfied that good work is being done in the teaching department and hope a foundation is being laid upon which we may build the most efficient school in Korea.

The Sunday morning church service is growing in interest

and the attendance is slowly increasing, the introduction of singing proving a great help.

I expect to get off to the North in a few days and unless prevented in some way will purchase a house in Eui Ju, setting aside part of it for occupation by a missionary during his stays there, and will fix up part of it as a place of worship and center of work for the Christians there. I hope the time is not far off when we shall see a church regularly organized there.

I expect to be gone about two months returning in time to take part in the work of the Winter Theological Class which is one of the best features of our work.

Trusting that this will give you a partial view of some of our mission affairs as they appear to one of us, and with kindest regards.

Very Sincerely Yours
Samuel A. Moffett

18. Nov. 27, 1891. Seoul; to Dr. Ellinwood.

"After writing most of the above I concluded to leave it in such shape that you could publish it in the Church at H & A (The Church at Home and Abroad) if you see fit, and to add some other things for you or the Board only.

I find awaiting me a half dozen letters from Mr. Underwood giving me the unwelcome news of the probability of a long delay before his return and also the most welcome news of the promise of six men. In his letters, however, are a number of statements and plans concerning which I want to write you freely. I write now only my own views and do not know just what action the mission might take on the several questions touched upon.

I am more than rejoiced at the good news of re-enforcements to come. We certainly need and can use all the six men promised and we want them now altho it may be two years before they are finally settled in the permanent place of work. A man will be far better fitted to go to a new station and will make fewer mistakes if he can have from 6 months to 2 years in Seoul taking country trips to learn the language and people. We need two men for Seoul and especially so since Mr. Underwood's return may be long delayed. There is nothing to prevent our sending two men at least to open Gensan, the eastern port, and I sincerely pray that another 12 months will find that place taken by us. I am disappointed that the Australian Presbyterian missionaries have not gone there but they wish to stay in Fusan, where Mr. Davies died. I think the previous part of this letter indicates that we want two men at once preparing to permanently go in to Ping An Province. My own conviction is that the city of Ping An, not Eui Ju, is the place to permanently occupy

using the houses just purchased in Sui Ju as a temporary residence until Ping An is opened as a treaty port, which Dr. Allen tells me will come in time. As I came through there on my return I found the American Minister and a man-of-war there surveying the place and negotiating for its opening. However, having been twice deceived about ~~the~~ opening of Ping An I am unwilling to say it is to be opened until I have definite word of it from the government. In your letter of Sept. 30 to Mr. Underwood about Dr. Gardner (he sent the letter to me with comments) you say, 'We hardly know how to dispose of the two (doctors) we have to send.' We do not see any difficulty at all. We think ~~we~~ need two here. Dr. Vinton is getting almost no time for language study; the hospital keeps him tied down here, and we have no physician for country trips. Dr. Brown has reached Fusan and will be here in a few days. We do most earnestly hope he will get a good hold on the language and after one year in Seoul we can use him here--or in Gensan or in Ping An Province--or possibly in Fusan though the presence of the Australians there who expect a physician will probably render his presence there superfluous.

However, while I believe that 6 men and more can be most profitably disposed of as soon as they are ready for work, we can well afford to wait a long time rather than get the wrong kind of men. We do want men of thorough integrity of character, consecrated, tried men, full of devotion as true missionaries. We are now a harmonious band, orthodox Presbyterians with a Calvinistic creed (We made a mistake in asking for Dr. McGill and all rejoice that he is not one of us) and I was glad to see your questioning letter to Mr. U. concerning those rejected by the M.E. Board.

Now about an educational man for Seoul. I do not think we want a secular man who comes out fitted only for that work, but rather a minister who has had some experience in that line or a natural liking for it and talent for organization. I do not remember just what the Mission asked for but think we did not say a layman. I fear if we get a layman in charge of educational work we shall soon have three Departments of work to harmonize without being able to transfer the men from one kind of work to another if matters do not run smoothly or successfully.

We do need a man to develop our school work. I have just spent the morning in an examination at the Boys' School and believe it is doing good work and can be developed into a first class school out with the North country work to look after I cannot give it thorough oversight.

With the Underwoods' return indefinite, there is nothing for me to do but to accept the situation and for the present give up all idea of joining Mr. Baird in Fusan until our new

men come & get a hold on the language and then as we shall be fairly well manned a more permanent allotment of work will naturally take place.

I hope to spend several months in Eui Ju and Ping An Province next spring and summer taking with me one of the new men who will go with the idea of taking hold of the work there.

If within a year we get the six men promised, a lady to assist Miss Doty, I do not believe we shall need to ask for more men for perhaps four or five years, except probably two men for the South--where the population is dense and there is abundant room for the Australians and a well manned Mission of our own, each Mission having a large province with several million people. Trusting I have not written you too much-- I am with kindest regards,

Very Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

Enclosure: News clipping.

"One of the most remarkable works of grace known in foreign missions is that among the Koreans. Without having heard or seen a missionary thousands have become believers in Christ. This is the fruit of the circulation of copies of the New Testament by a Scottish missionary in Manchuria."

Am sorry to see the enclosed going the rounds of the press, giving false impressions of the condition of things in Korea. Such statements are not needed to do honor to the splendid work of the Scotch missionaries in Koukden in behalf of Korea."

19. Dec. 16, '91. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

"The mail arrived this afternoon and brought your letter of Nov. 7 to the Mission, and also personal letters to Dr. Vinton and Mr. Gale which have been shown to me by them. We certainly have some most important questions to consider and decide and I trust we shall be guided by the Spirit of God in all our plans.

The mail leaves tomorrow morning and I take time tonight to write a few lines to you. My letter and the action of the Mission sent soon after my return from the country answer some of your questions. We as a Mission are certainly rejoiced at the offer of Mr. Underwood and have ever since been considering the question of new stations, disposal of our forces, etc., and I believe our Annual Meeting in January when the work of the past year and the next year will be fully considered will show that we are ready for the new men and can place them at once where they will be able to make the most of their first year or two in language

study. By all means I hope we may be able to plan so as to let the men get a fair start on this difficult language. What good will it do us to have a dozen ministers & doctors who five years from now will be a failure so far as reaching the Koreans in their own language is concerned? You speak of 'huddling them in the Capital' but it will not be huddling them here if they are sent off at once to the interior to arrange for permanent location there, although their home may be in Seoul the first year. Dr. Brown and I have already tentatively arranged tentatively to spend four months of next spring and summer in Eui Ju that I may look after work there and that he may get the language. If new men arrive by that time I hope one of them may accompany us while others may go with Mr. Gale or Gifford to prepare for opening Gensan. I am glad Dr. Brown intends to get the language and I think I voice the opinion of the Mission in saying that we do not want him to be tied down to medical work until he has a good hold on the language. Dr. Vinton is giving too much time to the Govt. Hospital & Dispensary work to the neglect of the language and if our new men do likewise we shall be sadly crippled in a few years for lack of men who can teach and preach to the natives. If we can have the men and pretty generous appropriations for a few years for trips to Interior I believe in two years from now we shall be ready for a telling work along Evangelistic lines.

You say, 'It is a question which the Mission ought to consider, who of your number can be available to accompany the young missionaries?', and seem embarrassed by the change in Mr. Gale's plans. May I ask if there is any objection to sending me? I have from the first preferred to go to the Interior - am better able to go being a single man, and tho lacking experience, have had more experience in the Interior than any one on the field except Mr. Gale.

It has been the Mission's plan to keep Mr. Gale in Seoul. When we first planned for him Mr. Underwood was here. When Mr. U. left unexpectedly and with doubt of his return for some time we needed Mr. Gale here as the only one who spoke the language well and as he will probably give considerable time to translation (Mr. Underwood being absent) Seoul seemed the place for him. He has always declared his readiness to go anywhere the Mission said, but if Mr. U. does not return and Mr. Gale is sent to country to whom will we commit the translation of the Scriptures? Shall we turn that over to the Methodists? We, too, hoped Mr. Gale would be available for pioneer work and had Mr. Underwood remained, doubtless that would have been the case. If he is to stay in Seoul, what better place to put him & what better use to make of the Lower School property? For \$600 it can be made a satisfactory residence for him and Mrs. Heron, while Dr. Vinton says it would take \$2000 to fit it for medical use, and then require another building for a residence. If fitted up now as a

residence and Mr. Gale should hereafter be sent to a new station, our suggestion to the Mission might then be carried out and it be used for a residence for a doctor while the out-buildings be used for dispensary.

I think your letter to Mr. Gale both surprised and hurt him. He asked me if that meant that you regret his appointment. I cannot think so, for he gives promise of a life eminently useful whether in Seoul or the country.

We had a good day last Sunday receiving 10 into the Church with baptism, and observed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 23 Koreans partaking--the largest number I think at any one time.

Received today from Mr. Baird the deeds for the property in Fusan.

With kindest regards and most earnestly praying that we may be guided aright that all our plans and work may be overruled for the glory of God and the upbuilding of His Church here.

Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffrett

Dr. Brown and his wife have made most favorable impressions. He speaks very highly of Dr. and Mrs. Gardner whom I mentioned in my last letter. They were together 2 (?) years in

20. Dec. 28, 1891. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

"Your recent letters to Mr. Gale, to the Mission, and yours of Nov. 19th to me have taken us completely by surprise and have been the occasion of much pain and regret and have led to much earnest prayer. The Mission sends by this mail the only action which it feels that it can take and now as I write individually I do not know what to say--though I feel that the situation demands that I do what I can to help clear up the misunderstandings.

My relations with the Board and Secretaries have in these two years been the most pleasant and I have felt that between us existed perfect confidence and mutually frank relations. I utterly fail to understand what could occasion these recent letters which have called in question the motives and the consecration of the members of the Mission. I know that we have not deserved this and cannot but feel that your letters have conveyed more of it than is in your heart. We seem to be misunderstood and yet know not why. I think the Mission ever stands ready to lay before you the reasons for its plans and then willingly submit to the Board's veto of any of them, but if you doubt that we are planning for anything but what we

really consider the best interests of the work, I do not see what we are to do.

Personally, I have the greatest confidence in Mr. Gale's consecration and in his assertion that both he and his wife are ready to go anywhere and undertake any work that the Board and Mission may assign them. I do not know what has occasioned your lack of confidence in him, but believing it to be based on misunderstandings I am unwilling to give up my confidence in him.

I know that you will deeply regret that your letters have caused us such a state of uncertainty and concern and I sincerely pray that all misunderstandings may be cleared away and the way opened for full, frank and mutually confident relations without which, it seems to me, our work cannot possibly succeed. Misunderstandings, suspicions of motives, lack of confidence on the part of the Board, and on our part misunderstandings and a fear that we will be judged before we have explained the conditions and reasons for our actions will make almost any missionary's life a failure. I could not help believing that it was this more than overwork, more than anything else, that led to Dr. Heron's death. I have never known a man more thoroughly unselfish & more thoroughly possessing a consecrated missionary spirit, but irritated & worried & grieved beyond expression at the thought that his motives were questioned, his consecration doubted & his work misunderstood. His mental conflicts, more severe from the fact that he was proud spirited, wore him out. I would be spared any more such misunderstandings and so write as frankly as I do. Of course I know full well that the Board desires above all things the welfare of the work, peace and harmony in the mission, and knowing, as I feel that I do, that the mission desires your confidence and that we all stand ready to make any sacrifice of personal plans and feelings for the sake of Christ and this people, I plead that our communications may be not only marked by candor and frankness but carried on in mutual confidence.

I have written this prayerfully and only from a sense of duty, hoping that it may lead not to confidence in our judgment or approval of our plans but to confidence in our consecration and motives which seems to me to lie at the basis of success in our work. In what I have written about Dr. Heron I am liable to be misunderstood. I do not mean to say that it was not largely his own fault that he was misunderstood--but that he was misunderstood I doubt not, and I wish to do now what I should have done had Dr. Heron lived--work & pray for clear understanding between the Mission and the Board. Believe me that my heart & life are too deeply interested in the success of our cause to write anything in the above from mere personal considerations, and now I will take up the questions which you ask in your letter.

I too was 'sadly disappointed at the turn which matters have taken'. I did not know that Mr. Underwood would be called

home and a doubt cast upon his return. I had no idea that the physicians would be so decided in their objection to the Lower School property (Dr. Heron and I had talked over the same plan with favor). Nor did I think we should have to wait until the winter of 1892 for more men (the six men promised are not yet 'huddled in Seoul' tho I have been tempted to think you had them so pictured in your mind). These things have materially altered our plans as they necessarily must have done.

The plan to use the Lower School property for evangelistic work was but a modification of a plan which has been held in the mission ever since Mr. Underwood's return from Japan nearly two years ago. The advisability of occupying another district in Seoul has, I think, never been questioned. Several of us have long felt that this foreign settlement is not a place best adapted to meet and work with Koreans. Mr. Underwood several times held back his definite decision to go to another district only until property should be selected and secured. Our medical plans for the lower school property failing, it becomes available for carrying out the other plan and my judgment has been most unequivocally given that we ought at once to have it occupied and work begun--a work which, to my mind, can be made a most successful one. Such occupation of it by Mr. Gale need not interfere with its use for medical work if at any time a doctor (with little longer experience on the field) should change his opinion concerning it, nor need the work thus inaugurated by Mr. Gale be thrown away--if, as is likely, he should be sent to a station in a year or two, for in that case, we ought at once to put another minister in there. Better far, I think, put a man there rather than in this settlement. It is difficult to mention all the little things considered in reaching the final conclusion to ask the Board to so use that property. The case was prayerfully considered in all its bearings as has every question connected with the heavy responsibilities thus early in our missionary life forced upon us.

I wish to add just this that I may leave nothing undone to avoid another deep blow to our work -- viz. that I believe Mr. Gale to be a thorough Presbyterian, sound on every great doctrine which lies at the basis of a consecrated life - a firm believer in the inspiration of the Scriptures, the Calvinistic system of theology, the necessity of the Holy Spirit's presence for success in work. He speaks the Korean language better than anyone else on the field and his just finishing a translation of the Acts which bids fair to be the best translation of any book yet given us (judging from Koreans' comments on the first portion). From him came a very great deal of the Biblical instruction which our converts have received - both before and since his connection with our Mission. I believe the Lord will greatly bless and use him in His cause in Korea and I hope no step will be taken towards a severance of his relations with the Mission, a result which would come as a keen disappointment.

Believe me As ever Yours Sincerely,
Samuel A. Moffett

21. Feb'y 17, 1892 (Rec'd Mch 30). Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood

At the close of my second year and the beginning of the third on this field I have but little to write you beyond what you have already learned from the reports made to our Annual Meeting.

To me the year has been a good one for language study as I had two long trips to the country and have had in Seoul considerable practice in talking, having daily consultation with native agents, while the school work has helped me, all instruction there having been given in the vernacular. I have tried to keep steadily in mind that my usefulness here will depend more upon laying a good foundation for work than upon the amount of work done these first few years, ~~hara~~ and consequently have sought to make all work done contribute to my language study. I want one more year at least of such work before I shall feel that language study is not my first work, although I trust I shall be able to do more and better work both in the school and along evangelistic lines than last year.

This year the oversight of the 'sarang' in Mr. Underwood's compound as well as the native service fall to me. The object of the 'sarang' is to have a place for daily inquiry and for conversation upon and study of the Scriptures, and by spending from 2 to 3 hours every morning in such work I expect a great deal of pleasure and profit. Mr. Underwood's absence left most everything with loose ends with no one prepared to take them up just where he left them, but this year we begin in much better condition. With the blessing of the Spirit upon our work we have every reason to look forward to this year with hope of steady progress as I believe the truth has a real hold upon a number of our members.

I ought also to write you something concerning property in Seoul since Dr. Allen showed me his letter to you and also invited me to look over his property, noticing its condition, situation, etc. It appears to me a good piece of property, nicely situated for work, being near quite a large street leading to one of the smaller city gates. It is not so well situated as the 'Lower School' property and is much nearer our present location than that. Whether it would be a desirable acquisition to us would, I think, depend upon several other questions. As you know, Dr. Vinton wishes to build a hospital quite far outside the South Gate. If this is done it would seem that a minister should also be located there with him. We shall want a physician in one of the houses here. We hope to have the Lower School occupied as an evangelistic point and if another minister for the school is sent here we should then have in Seoul 2 physicians, 5 ministers and the Girls' school force--enough for Seoul for several years unless a practically new station were opened in the extreme northeastern section of the city 3 miles from here. If we should need more property

in this section Dr. Allen's will be a good place to purchase.

Mr. Clifford and I have had a talk with Mr. Heard, the U.S. Minister, concerning the purchase of property under the recent proclamation of the Mayor. He tells us that his understanding is that at the request of the Chinese Consul the proclamation was withdrawn and that he will let us know what action the diplomatic body takes after their meeting & consultation over it. We were led to make inquiry by a desire to sell the little Korean house occupied by our evangelist (a house given to the Mission by Mr. Underwood), and purchase another for him. The one he now occupies has not been repaired for 10 years and in another year will require considerable expense to repair it so that it will not fall. If we can get \$100 or \$150 from the Board to add to what we can get for the house, \$80 or \$100, we will be able to get a better house and one better located for work near a main street where books can be offered for sale and eventually a room fitted up as a street chapel. The next meeting of the station will be asked to request such an appropriation from the Board - but as I am writing, I mention it now.

I also enclose a sketch of the property purchased in Eui Ju - which should have accompanied my report. It is a large property but the fields were secured at slight cost and afford room for several buildings if the place is occupied as a district station - but the present buildings will be sufficient if it becomes a sub-station to Pyeng Yang.

Long ere this you will have heard our plans for new stations and know that we are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of new men next fall.

With prayers for the blessing and guidance of the Spirit of God upon the Board and upon us,

Very Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

22. March 17, 1892 (Recd. Apr. 19) Seoul, Korea. to Dr. Ellinwood

Your two letters of Jan. 16th and 27th were received with pleasure. The three months required to receive an answer to our letters frequently finds the conditions on the field greatly altered and so I sit down to write you again somewhat differently from my last letters. Unwilling that you should infer that I jump to conclusions hastily and prematurely without a warrant from the situation on the field and fearing that my decided change on two questions in such a short time might lead to that inference, I wish to explain a little more fully what led me to

write so strongly concerning the importance of keeping Mr. Gale in Seoul and of opening Eui Ju, and also why I now as earnestly favor Mr. Gale's transfer to Gensan and the opening of Pyeng Yang as our northern station.

I urged the retention of Mr. Gale in Seoul (as did our whole Mission) and the reasons actuating me were as follows: 1st - (a rather delicate one which I did not wish to mention before but will do so now) - The necessity I felt of always having someone in Seoul who could intelligibly converse with Koreans and act as interpreter in all important questions affecting the mission work and the native church. Mr. Gale could do that but after him I was the only one who could do so (I say this without reflection upon others and with full consciousness of my own deficiencies in the language - for it is an extremely difficult language, not to be mastered in a few years and as yet no one has made but a beginning toward a scholarly knowledge of it). With Mr. Gale away, my enforced absence in the North to look after work there would leave no one here with sufficient facility in use of the language to adequately meet any very difficult or important question which might arise. With Mr. Gale away and me in Seoul it would throw upon me the burden of interpreting almost every important transaction with Koreans and I felt that less than two years in the language was not sufficient foundation to bear the burden of looking after the interests of a work left by one who had been here 6 years. I need not elaborate this.

2nd - The necessity of having some one here for literary work. Mr. Gale was furthest advanced in the language and was already associated with the M.E.'s in translation work and did not have his hands full of school & church work, nor of Treasurer's or medical work. This I spoke fully of before.

3rd - The great importance of opening work in the "Lower School" property, by far the best located place we have for work and, under our physician's objections to it, a place available only for evangelistic work.

At our mission meeting this week I made the motion and advocated sending Mr. Gale to permanently occupy Gensan, and for these reasons:

1st - Letters from the Board and from Mr. Underwood tell us of the coming of 6 men, and 4 to 6 men from the Southern Board. These also indicate that your view is that we should not delay in taking possession of the principal points, desiring to be the first to enter even tho thereby the work in Seoul is retarded. We accept the suggestion, and, with gratitude, for

For the men are ready to go in and possess the land, leaving the concentration of thought and energy upon work in Seoul until we have occupied the stations and are ready to push work in all points simultaneously. This will be good policy if in the end Seoul is not forgotten and relegated to the point of being a mere supply station for the interior - for it should be the center of our educational & medical work and will be the center of the most extensive field for evangelistic work and in the end should be given a full corps of workers.

2nd - The translators have finished their first work and their future joint work will be broken into by Mr. Appenzeller's return to America this summer. We also hope that Mr. Gale may be able to accomplish as much in Gensan as alone in Seoul - if he has the aid of a Seoul teacher and helper.

3rd.- Mr. Gale and Mrs. Heron (by the time this reaches you, Mrs. Gale) both asked to be allowed to open Gensan. Upon Mr. Gale's trip there he bought a lot and reports a foreign built house there which can be rented and occupied while they are building.

4th - Dr. Brown now agrees with the view I have always held that the 'Lower School' property can be well adapted to Medical Work and that it is a splendid location for a dispensary. If the Board grant the money asked to fit it for a residence and the new Doctor agrees with our view he can go in there at once and that (our best) point can be occupied and work begun there.

For these reasons I give my voice to the present plan and ~~earnestly~~ earnestly urge that if this meets your approval there be no delay in giving us the appropriation asked for Gensan that Mr. Gale may go up there this summer and build this fall. At the same time I must ask you to bear in mind that you ought not to expect the same progress in our work in Seoul. With my hands full of innumerable details of the Sarang and Church and a Sabbath School, 2 hours a day for the School, the details of housekeeping and the absolute necessity of getting some time each day for language study, the 'irons' cannot be kept very 'hot' even though they are kept in the fire. Mr. Gifford also has his hands full of Treasurer's work which he does with greatest excellence & care to the great satisfaction of the Mission.

II. The Northern Station. When I first wrote urging the opening of Eul Ju it was on the ground that Mr. Gale was a single man ready to go in there quietly and occupy it - which he was quite anxious to do. (Mr. Underwood was then in Seoul). This was at the time of my first visit there and I

had but little knowledge of the language. Everything seemed to give promise of a successful work and I agreed with Mr. Underwood & Mr. Gale in thinking it should be occupied at once. My second visit was made with knowledge of Mr. Gale's change of plans and after gaining better use of the language & knowledge of the country & people. The second visit confirmed my impressions of the promising outlook for work there and of its importance as a field of labor and I greatly rejoice in the purchase of property there and the establishment of a tried evangelist in it. And if we occupy it I believe we shall have a successful work - but this trip also impressed me very greatly with the fact that in planting a station in the North we ought to first occupy Pyeng Yang, the capital, as the important center of our Northern work, and I believe better judgment and greater wisdom will be displayed in taking possession of this as the strategic point, and I should greatly prefer to have our Board have its Northern work center in Pyeng Yang. Could we have 3 men for the province, as I hope we shall, one of them could take up our Eui Ju work and look to the Southern Church to strengthen his hands. A few facts will show you why I prefer Pyeng Yang.

Eui Ju is a city of from 20,000 to 30,000 people on the border of China, equally distant 500 li (3 li a mile) from Moukden & New Chwang in Manchuria and Pyeng Yang in Korea. Being on the border, its territory is just half that of an interior city and has a workable region including 19 cities and their districts (many villages), containing a population of between $\frac{1}{2}$ and one million people. (Population is mainly guesswork & this is my guess, founded on a few facts).

It was formerly a busy city with large trade & many rich merchants but since the opening of the treaty ports it has been steadily declining in population & trade, by far the greater part of its trade having gone to the ports.

Pyengyang - capital of province is a city of from 70,000 to 100,000 people - the largest city north of Seoul (with possible exception of Syong To, 160 li from Seoul). It is equally distant 500 li from Seoul, Censan and Eui Ju. The region to be worked from there includes 39 cities with their districts, including An Ju, the 3rd largest city of the province, and Heang Ju, the 2nd largest city of the province to the south of it. It also includes our country work on the West coast where we have 15 enrolled members. The population of the region is probably 2 million. It has large business interests and if a treaty port is opened near it, as is probable, it will be a most important point on account of the splendid coal which is just beginning to be mined there.

The question & method of entering either one of these

points are vastly different from those of Gensan, a treaty port. Whoever enters here must do so cautiously and quietly, perhaps living in Korean houses for several years and putting up with a great many more inconveniences and lack of luxuries than do we in Seoul. That we can enter, I have no doubt, but we cannot do so until the men are here and just how we will enter will depend very greatly upon circumstances and the conditions met in the effort. There may be no objection whatever, - I think there will be none - but it may be that two or three protracted visits will be necessary, with return trips to Seoul, before a man will feel that he can consider himself safely & permanently settled. As the men who occupy it will have to learn the language it may not be best for them to continue there after the first visit but take two visits with an older missionary. It will also require a considerable outlay of money and the expense of living there will probably be greater than in Seoul unless freight can be satisfactorily sent by boat. It will not be best for a man to take his wife there until after the first long stay and if a single man is among those sent to Korea of course we will expect him to go to this province. We shall not delay getting in there a day longer than wise prudence may seem to require and we certainly will not let the men appointed to that field get the impression that settling in Seoul is a possibility.

The Methodists say they intend to push their work in the North - but they have not the men and if they do go in there is no fear of any injurious collision. They will go ahead & we will go ahead in perfect friendship but without interference.

I greatly hope we shall see the two new doctors out here in the early fall and that the ministers with their wives will come as early as possible so that after one winter language study they can go up in the early spring.

III. One other question - The request for \$350 with which to purchase a home & lot which, by building a small piece of wall, can be thrown into my compound and become a useful building either for a Sarang - or quarters for servants, helpers, etc. A few months ago I wanted this place very much (before I had charge of the Sarang in Mr. Underwoods compound) but the price asked was \$600 so I gave it up. A few days ago I was approached by the man who, in trouble with an official, has to raise some money to save his life, offers it for \$300 without the lot. The Mission thinks it from a business point of view desirable to purchase and I doubt not whoever occupies this house (probably whoever has

has charge of the school) will want this and eventually will want 3 other small houses which are between here & the street, making this compound extend to the street as do those of all the other houses of the Mission.

I had hoped to get off a letter to Mr. Underwood on this mail but will not be able. Shall be glad to have you show him this to explain why I urge the occupation of Pyeng Yang first altho I see the importance of Eui Ju as I did when I wrote him to try to get men for Eui Ju. I love not Eui Ju less but Pyeng Yang more.

With kindest regards and continued prayers, I am,
Very Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

May 5, 1892 (Rec. June 4). Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Ellinwood.

"Dr. Brown and I having finished the necessary but decidedly tedious work of auditing the Treasurer's books and report, expect to start off tomorrow for Eui Ju. Before going I want to thank you very sincerely for your kind letter of March 2 and also to add a word on the subject of the necessity of re-enforcements for our Girls' School and Woman's Work. We have just insisted on a rest for Miss Doty and she has gone to spend a few weeks with Mrs. Baird at Musan, while Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Gifford look after the school. That one person cannot look after such a school and make it efficient while preserving her health seems to me to need no argument - but aside from that we greatly need some one who can superintend and follow up work among the women, a work by far the most important but in which we have done very little. The M.E.'s have 4, 5 or 6 women for that work and it is a pleasure to them to prosecute it. Had we three ladies in connection with the girls' school they could all give some time to the school and some to women's work - but as it is Miss Doty is so occupied that she seldom gets away from the house more than an hour at a time.

Mr. Baird has probably informed you of the changes in Fusan and the reason why the presence of the Canadian doctor there does not render Dr. Brown's presence unnecessary.

Dr. Hardie is available in case of sickness but not for real Mission work nor for itinerating. Mr. Packay after the death of his wife became very sick and has just gone back to Australia adding one more to the long list of those who have begun work in Korea but now are not here. We trust this does not end the work of the Victorian Church in Korea. As they are Presbyterian and Scotch they will probably try again.

I have just written a short note to W.M. Jenkin under appointment of Southern Board and referred him to the letter sent by Dr. Vinton to our Board concerning the new men, their outfit and places of residence. As the three Southern men leave Aug. 17th they will probably arrive here before most of our reinforcements and we can entertain them until they get settled & ready for housekeeping in the house we have secured for them.

It will be well if one of the doctors and one or more of the ministers can come with the Southern men. Please do not hesitate to send the men and all of them as soon as possible. We shall probably be somewhat crowded this winter - especially if Mr. Underwood begins repairs on his house then, but the crowding will only be in order that the men may have six months work on the language during the winter and be off for the stations in the early spring.

We have remembered the Board's Treasury in these last days and hope ~~it~~ to hear that the year has closed without debt. With kindest regards.

Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

24. Sept. 6, 1892 (rec. Oct. 20). Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Allinwood.

I have just arrived in Seoul after a 2 months absence the last two weeks of which were spent in China taking breath before beginning the fall and winter work, and in gaining much advantage from contact with the missionaries and their work in Chefoo & Tang Chow. I wish to give you a running account of my trip and work in Eui Ju and vicinity.

Arrived in Eui Ju the work began with every promise of success and great was the disappointment to Dr. Brown and me that he was compelled to leave and yet I am glad to be able to report a most gratifying and profitable summer work.

Soon after Dr. P. left I started off for a trip to a number of villages where young Kim had been ~~xxxxxx~~ at work that I might see what he had done and that I might gather material for a summer theological class in Eui Ju. I was well pleased with Kim's work and during the five days I spent in the center of the region he had been canvassing I met and taught a great many inquirers from surrounding villages - many coming in 20 and 30 li to see me and talk about the gospel. Of those in this region who applied last year for baptism I found that some had lost all interest fearing persecution, while others seemed to have been studying and to be desirous

of coming into the church. I met and examined a number of these together with others who applied for the first time and from this number I baptized two men, one a school teacher, the other a farmer, both of whom had been under instruction nearly two years. I am making it a rule to be very careful about baptizing men as our experience with our enrolled membership has been far from satisfactory. Most all of the men who come to us have come in order to get financial help but among these there are some who rise above that motive after they have been thoroughly instructed. One old man of 72 who has occupied a high position as a teacher of Confucianism - with whom I had a long talk last year - came to me again declaring himself a believer in Jesus and was most eager to hear more of the gospel. I greatly hope that another year will see him ready to come into the church. The five days spent in this village gave me a great deal of valuable information concerning the every day life and customs of Korean villagers. I returned to Eui Ju through a region heretofore unvisited by foreigners, spending Sunday in the magistracy of Sak Ju. The first visit to any place is decidedly unsatisfactory for it is hard to do anything with a great crowd of people intent only on satisfying their curiosity. They show the greatest indifference to the gospel tho I have in mind one old man who seemed to get somewhat interested in what I had said and who promised to hunt me up when he went to Eui Ju. The Koreans are easy to approach and to talk to concerning the gospel but a more thoroughly indifferent people I think it would be hard to find.

I was out 12 days and upon returning to Eui Ju settled down to every day preaching and teaching in my house, having a constant run of visitors to whom the old, old story was told over and over again. Several times while out for a walk I have had groups of men gather around me while I talked of the gospel but I do not think the time has come for indiscriminate public preaching in these places where we are seeking an entrance. We held regular service on Sundays and I had a great crowd of boys on several Sundays to whom I explained gospel pictures. I found great reluctance on the part of our members there to identify themselves directly with Christianity. I was able in these 3 months in Eui Ju to get a pretty good idea of the condition of our work. I think without question that most of the men who have been baptized there were seeking mere temporal gain and that 2/3 of the 30 or more have no interest whatever in the gospel. I should say that not more than 10 give evidence of being Christian and some of these have little courage to endure ridicule.

I find very great encouragement, however, in being able to report five or six men who seem to have a real hold on the truth and are rejoicing in it, and great encouragement from the fact that great numbers of the people have learned what the gospel is - many are quietly searching the Scriptures and

there is an evident conviction on the part of many that this is the truth. I heard of quite a number who had given up the worship of evil spirits and I feel that a great deal has been done towards getting the people to think about and talk over this new doctrine. Good seed was sown in the minds of a great many children and some of them will yet be preachers of the Word. I enrolled several applicants for baptism one of whom gives me great joy because of his perfect willingness to let it be known that he is a Christian. He is a constant attendant upon the Bible Class and the Sunday service; told me he had given up the worship of evil spirits and that every night he assembled his household to hear him read from the Gospels or other Christian books. He charged me to tell the people in Seoul that he had become a Christian. I look upon the summer Bible Class as the most profitable part of my work and the one which will have the greatest effect in preparing for a harvest. A class of 12 men from 8 towns and villages were with me for 15 days and they were taken thro a course of instruction on the main doctrines of Scripture. They spent two hours each day with me and in the afternoon went over the same Bible headings with Mr. Park who more fully explained to them what I had taught in the morning.

One of the attendants upon the class was an old man of 77 who came in 150 li in order to learn more fully of that which he had heard in the country.

The last two weeks of my stay Dr. Vinton was with me and in that time he treated over 450 patients and did a great deal to open up more homes to me and to gain the good will of many who had not before come under my influence. I cannot speak too highly of the advantages of coupling the Medical and Evangelistic work, where the former is made a means to the latter and not an end in itself. I am glad to bear witness to the fact that both our doctors have this view of their work.

I write hopefully of our work in Eui Ju and yet my three months there and the trip to the surrounding country makes me even more decidedly of the opinion that Pyeng Yang is the place where we should plant our station.

The reasons given in previous letters seem even stronger than ever. Eui Ju is steadily declining commercially and in population and I was surprised to find the region through which I travelled not more thickly populated. Pyeng Yang has by far a more populous and a more fertile tributary region and is the city of the province - the strategic point of the North. Eui Ju can and should be worked from Pyenz Yang and we ought to have three men for that province one of whom could give special attention to Eui Ju and vicinity.

The only points in favor of going into Eui Ju as our station are that we have work begun there and that there is no difficulty about going in, for everyone took it for granted while I was there that I expected to build a house and live there permanently and no one even suggested any objection.

However, I have no question of our ability to get into Pyeng Yang tho we must needs work cautiously and win our way as we have done in Eui Ju. We cannot go in at once and build a foreign house - tho possibly with a doctor we could do that. We cannot go in with a man who has no tact or who has not sufficient knowledge of the language to know what is going on about him. Successful entrance into Pyeng Yang depends more in my judgment upon the men than upon anything else and we cannot very well make a selection until our new men arrive and have had a few months with us. Not every man has tact enough to get along with the Koreans and gain their good will. Not every man has the health and constitution to go into the interior and live several months in a native house upon canned goods and such native food as he can get and we may have difficulty in this respect. I have made diligent search for a suitable house but it is hard to find in the city and as we cannot build at once we shall have to live in a small place in an unhealthy location and I doubt the advisability of having any one man there longer than three months at a time until he has become acclimated.

Again, caution is needed because we have no treaty right to live there and we must simply gain the good will of the people and win the right to stay. A doctor will be most invaluable and I hope we are to have one. My plan at present is to go up there just before the winter with one of the new men, and if the inquiries for a house now being made enable us to do so, to buy a house as temporary quarters. In the spring go up with two men, stay in Pyeng Yang some time, leave one man there and with the other go on to Eui Ju and after staying there return to Pyeng Yang for another stay. I believe we could then go in in the fall without ~~appreciable~~ obstruction and stay all winter. However, we cannot know until we try for there is a vast difference between opening a station in Husan or Gensan, the treaty ports, and opening a station in the interior for the first time. We can do it and we intend to do it but the ways and means will depend upon circumstances as they arise.

I understand the Methodists have asked for a doctor for Pyeng Yang. I hope we shall get in there first as we have in every other station.

We are most eagerly awaiting the new men and somewhat anxiously awaiting the news that you have found the two new doctors. With kindest regards,

Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

25. Nov. 9, 1892. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Billinwood.

Most sincerely do I wish that you and the Board could know from personal observation and from a prolonged stay on the field the exact condition of things in your Korea Mission during the last two years - but as that cannot be and as you cannot have the advantage of a personal talk with each member of the Mission you are forced to draw your conclusions from the communications received from the missionaries and from views given by others from whom you may receive information. Hoping that I may add some light and give some assistance to you in understanding the situation here I set myself once more to the work of writing you a full, frank and I trust very plain letter which I feel sure will be received as my past letters have been, without being misunderstood.

Of course it is your letter of Sept. 20th to Dr. Vinton which makes me feel it my duty to write this letter. I appreciate your personal letter which relieves me from any share in the criticism upon the station members for having all left Seoul at the same time. I think I wrote you my reasons for returning to Seoul from Eui Ju by way of Newchwang and Chefoo, viz. that I wished to arrange for the transfer of goods, books, etc., by way of Newchwang instead of overland from Seoul in order to save expense, and also that I might get the advantage of a knowledge of the methods of school work so successful in Chefoo and Tungchow to help me in the management of our boys school. The trip from Eui Ju to Seoul overland takes 28 days. I spent but 22 days returning as I did. It was not a pleasure trip but a business trip - altho the change of climate & surroundings after 3 months of work in the interior living mainly on native food was a pleasure. I drew nothing this year from the appropriation for health trips and my 4 months absence from Seoul cost me, aside from what I drew from itinerating funds, \$160.00 silver.

I write this for I do not wish to rest under the slightest suspicion of having run off from my post of duty for mere pleasure, altho your letter does not intimate that. I certainly see something incongruous in a missionary to Korea travelling thro' and staying in China but I take it that in a pioneer work as ours is and especially as my Northern work is, some things out of the ordinary are to be expected. I am not at all surprised that you did not know what to think of the action of the station members which seemed to abandon the work & country for the summer. I too was surprised when the news reached me in Eui Ju for it was not the intention when I left for the North in May that all should leave at the same time. I was not here and cannot write you concerning the situation then. You will hear from others why it so occurred. I knew we would hear from you about it and felt it to be very unfortunate that it so occurred.

However, I wish to assure you that some of the inferences which you drew from the fact that all were away were not warranted. Religious services were not abandoned. When I left I placed Mr. Saw, our evangelist, in charge of the regular Sunday service of the church (which is under my charge this year) and the services were continued as usual - Miss Doty being present and playing the organ as usual. The Sunday School was discontinued all the time that I was away and resumed upon my return. During the rainy season almost all work & travel is practically suspended so that the Koreans would not think that we had abandoned our work for an easy time.

Mr. Gale had just been transferred to Gensan and the service which he had begun was necessarily discontinued. I think you have had the idea that a great deal more work has been carried on in Seoul than we have ever been able to do. Until this year we have had no one (since Dr. Underwood's return) in the mission who could speak Korean with any degree of fluency. Mr. Gale was with us just long enough to have a regular service barely begun when he was transferred. In the Shantung Mission in China new missionaries are not allowed to have the responsibilities of the work of new stations, building new work, etc., until they have had five years work on the language and the consequent experience. We have had thrust upon us the full work of a station after one or two years on the field, before any of us could be understood or understand Koreans except in a limited degree.

I wish to give you a few facts upon two questions in which you have criticized us quite severely - viz. - Extravagance, and the lack of spiritual ~~graxen~~ results. I shall speak freely and fully at the risk of criticizing & reflecting upon others.

In some way you have gotten the impression that the Seoul station has been extravagant in real estate. If there has been any such extravagance the responsibility for it lies entirely with Dr. Allen, Mr. Underwood and Dr. Heron, and not with the present members of the Seoul station, not one of whom was here when the real estate was bought. During the time that the present members of the station have been here and have had part in the mission work but 2 pieces of real estate have been bought, one of them a small house in the corner of Mr. Gifford's compound which was made into necessary coal & wood sheds. This cost in silver \$70.51, or \$54.14 Gold. The other was an old wine shop at the entrance to the compound occupied by Dr. Heron & Mr. Moffett, which was removed that in its place might be built a gate & wood shed & a wall separating the stable from the road. This cost the Board \$167.50 gold and it cost me personally \$120 silver, an amount which I paid from my own pocket in order to get rid of this

wine shop which was reeking with filth and in order to protect our property. On the other hand I claim for the present renters of the station the credit for the inauguration of an economical management & use of the Board's funds. First, to them is due the practice of building stone instead of mud walls - a practice which if adopted 3 years ago would have saved the Board hundreds of dollars, for then stones were cheap, but even at the present price high price stone walls are in the long run economical. Second, to them is due the adoption of the following by-law, viz.: "All house repairs involving an expense of more than \$5.00 shall be undertaken only after consultation with the local members of the Mission Building Committee, and all involving an expense of more than \$25.00 only after the approval of the station has been secured." - a rule which is designed to secure a more economical use of repair funds - a point in which I from the first thought the station prone to an injudicious use of mission funds. This was adopted last spring & does not bear upon last year's repairs.

Third, to them is due the practice of having station oversight of the way in which all funds are used, which has led to a more careful use of funds and has led us to question some of the precedents established by the founders of the Mission. One of these precedents has just been referred to the Board for an opinion, viz. - whether or no the Board expects to furnish us with books for language study. The decided policy of Seoul station has been towards economy, so much so as to cause some complaints within the mission. It takes a man nearly two years to get such an insight into & knowledge of affairs as to warrant him in reversing the precedents established on a field and it is not strange that we followed the customs & rules we found here until such time as we had knowledge sufficient to enable us to introduce what we think are better plans. Time and again have I regretted many of the precedents established here, not the least of which is the one which started the missionaries with the appearance of men of wealth - ranking with the nobility - who should conform to all the customs followed in the foreign diplomatic circles. I am totally out of sympathy with the desire to maintain the same social life which exists in the non-missionary community. There are certain ways of using money and ways of living with which I have no sympathy, but every man answers to his own master as to how he uses his own money, and if a man has money of his own outside of what he receives from the Board he is very liable to be subject to criticism upon the part of those who know nothing at all of his private affairs.

When it comes to the use of the Mission funds it is an entirely different question and no man can follow his own ideas. That is a Mission affair and I assure you that we have been making a steady advance towards a more economical use of them.

I do not think we have reached perfection yet in our management of funds but it was no easy task which was given us when we were left to run the Mission affairs with but little experience & an inadequate knowledge of the language & customs of the people. That the Seoul station has striven these 2 years, and is striving to use funds more & more economically I am ready to affirm most earnestly though I do not think anything we do will prevent some people from criticizing us. Was there ever a time when people did not disparage not only missionary work but all Christian work? People will criticize us whatever we do. If we play tennis we are frivolous & worldly minded. If we do not play tennis we are hermits and neglect our health. If a man has money of his own or friends from whom he obtains that which enables him to have a nice home - he is extravagant and is lavish in his use of funds. If ~~any~~ criticisms come from true Christians in earnest sympathy with our work and who know the facts we ought to be more than glad to hear and profit by them - but if from those who are not Christians or not in sympathy with the real spiritual character of our work, then we can spend half our time in answering such and not satisfy them.

The second point I wish to touch upon is that concerning the expectation of great spiritual results. Your letter was the first news that I had of such a message having been sent to you through Rev. Mr. Sampson, who called here while I was in Eui Ju. I cannot understand how such a message as your letter indicates that you received could possibly have been sent by any one who believes the word of God and I think there must certainly have been a misunderstanding somewhere.

I quote your letter:- "We must not expect great spiritual results in Korea." Why not? Are we not already getting great spiritual results? Certainly I have been more than encouraged with the bright prospects of our work. What are spiritual results? Statistics alone do not measure results. I baptized but 2 men in the North this summer but that does not represent the results. I could have baptized 50 or more I suppose and given an appearance of great success and large results now, but time will vindicate the wisdom of a policy which tends to lay good foundations for permanent work. Mr. Gifford reports a large number of applicants for baptism in the south. Few men there have been baptized but they do not represent the results. Last year we baptized 21 people - this year we have baptized but 7 tho' a number more will be baptized this fall as we have several classes who have been under instruction for a year or more. The condition of the native church is, to my mind, better than ever tho' there are many backsliders and indifferent ones among those enrolled. There has not been any time in the history of this native church when such was not

the case. When I came here both elders had just been disciplined - one excommunicated - the number of Christians reported was 90 or more - a large proportion of whom have not been seen for three years at least, and some who have never been seen since they were baptized. Many have never attended church since I have been here. The condition today is no worse - I think - better than it then was, for we have set ourselves to the faithful instruction of the church that we might send forth real Christians to teach the gospel which they believe.

I rejoice in the evidence of growth in grace on the part of many of our members and look upon that as the greatest of spiritual results. We have not made the progress which would have been made had Dr. Heron and Mr. Underwood not been removed from the field - but with our limited knowledge of the language we have done what we could and we have been blessed.

Are we satisfied? By no means - and now that we are prepared for better work and have some knowledge of the language we have been entering upon more & more aggressive work as we have found ourselves capable of doing so. A few years of faithful on our part will, under the blessing of God, vindicate the wisdom of the policy of building well the foundations even tho a looser policy would present a greater appearance of success. What I imagine was the purport of the message sent thro Mr. Sampson is - that such results are not to be expected as one would infer from the reports circulated by Mr. Ross concerning the work in the north, and the rumors which have gained credence at home that Korea is on the point of becoming a Christian nation and that the Koreans are clamoring for the gospel. Such reports were circulated concerning Japan when I was in the seminary 5 years ago. The world knows now that such is not the case. If North Korea presents any such condition as has been represented - if the Koreans are clamoring for the gospel as such, I shall praise the Lord for it - but I cannot write you any such reports and tell you what I believe to be the truth. I will not put my youth and inexperience and knowledge of the work in the North against the years & experience and knowledge of Mr. Ross (altho I have personally been over & seen more of that work than he has) and say that he has mis-represented things, but I do say that I have been utterly unable to find what he represents to be there. I have met some of those "thousands" who are ready to become Christians, and their idea is that by becoming Christians (my disciples) they are to be fed and clothed by us all their lives and spend their time in lazily studying the Bible.

The Korean is ready to listen to us as we preach the gospel and as sure as the promises of God are true so surely do I look for "great spiritual results" in Korea as I am sure do all

your missionaries. We gain nothing by giving glowing (if inaccurate) reports of our work and if accurate, true reports of our work do not show fidelity to our work (I do not say apparent success) then a mistake was made when we were sent to the field.

I am glad that you wrote the letter you did and am sure it will do us good. The information you had and the appearance of things justified it - tho I do not think the facts had they been known would have altogether done so.

Certainly I do not think the facts are a justification of your despondent feeling over the prospects in Korea and I shall be more than glad if my letter shall help to remove it. There are points in which I should criticize ourselves as severely as you have done and I am sure that we have as great a feeling of dissatisfaction over our failures and mistakes as you can have. I do not think we are as faithful or as consecrated as we should be and I do feel that we need more & more to be filled with the Spirit. That your letter may lead us to a searching of our hearts - to more prayer - to greater fidelity is my most earnest wish and prayer.

I should like to write you some things connected with our medical work - the Hospital, etc. - as my ideas on those questions differ somewhat from some others in the mission, but I have already taken considerable of my time from other important work and have written you a pretty lengthy letter.

With kindest regards,

Very Sincerely Yours,
Samuel A. Moffett

We are greatly pleased with our new men including the Southern Board men who have arrived & who will be hand in hand with us in building up one Presbyterian Church. Messrs. Moore & Lee are settling down to earnest, faithful work in the language. Lee has been with me - is a fine fellow, consecrated and true. He is off now to Pyeng Yang for a month - his first country trip. We expect Swallen & Miller on next boat. Miss Strong gives every promise of proving a treasure to our Girls' School & women's work.

The prospects are more than bright.

26. Nov. 23, 1892. Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Willingood.

A rainy afternoon just before Thanksgiving Day gives me a chance to sit down for a short communication to you concerning several things concerning which I wish it were possible that I might talk with you.

First - concerning a request for an appropriation which goes to you from our November meeting. I greatly hope that you will see your way clear to allowing us the small sum asked for in order that next Spring we may have the funds with which to open up a joint Chapel & dispensary in another section of the city. You cannot realize how much we are hampered by having all our force and work in this Foreign Settlement and I want to urge the necessity of our being given opportunities to develop work in several sections of the city. Next Spring as soon as the Annual Meeting decides upon one location & one individual work we shall find ourselves ready for beginning just such a work as this appropriation will provide for. We are not quite ready for street-work in Seoul and if we are not provided with a house for work it seems to me we will lose time in getting a hold upon sections of the city far from us and which cannot well be worked from here without a house. It is extremely difficult to buy a satisfactory place if we have to wait 3 or 4 months after deciding upon it until we get the appropriation from the Board. By the time we get the money the house may be sold or the price asked be increased because they know a foreigner wants it. Give us the \$300 and I am sure we can get a good house well located for beginning just such a work as the Methodists have started in 3 or 4 sections.

There are some very serious problems coming before us at our Annual Meeting and we shall need special guidance that we may plan wisely & well. For myself I shall advocate a policy which will tend to take our work very largely away from this Foreign Settlement where Koreans are loth to come & where what work we have is directly in contact with F.E. work as they are just across the street from us.

I should be more than glad to see the Girls School removed to another section of the city - a lady physician sent to them & a minister and his wife located in the same place - they to there develop the Girls School, the work among women, and to establish a church under the direction of the minister who should be with them. I could give many reasons for urging this but will await the action of the Annual Meeting at which time full reasons will be sent

should such action be proposed.

The question of bringing our medical work to bear more directly upon Evangelistic work is one which will occupy our attention. I think the Board has been apt to forget that for over two years we have had but one physician and that he knew nothing of the language. He had nevertheless to take hold of the Gov't Hospital and in his management of it, it is not yet in a satisfactory condition and bears no direct relation to our Evangelistic work - it must be borne in mind that his task was an unusually difficult one and that he had to deal with dishonest Korean officials who care nothing for the Hospital except as it gives them an opportunity to "squeeze" a living out of it.

I sincerely hope that we may retain the Hospital and get what good we can out of it but it will demand a great deal of tact to keep things running smoothly there. I have never ceased to regret that our Physician was not located in the Yon Tong Kol (Lower School) property where we might have had dispensary & hospital work going on all the time and in connection with it gospel work. Unless we see our way clear to placing a Physician there soon I hope the Annual Meeting will put a minister there permanently and let him go ahead to develop work there.

I feel that now as we are locating new men & opening new stations is the time for us to plan to leave but a small force in this Foreign Settlement where without question the Methodists are permanently settled. We shall also be called upon to assist our Southern Brethren in deciding upon their location. I think there is little question but that they will open a station in the South.

If they also leave a small force in Seoul they can occupy still another section of the city to advantage, or unite with us in the development of school & college work. Our relations with them will be the closest and most pleasant. We have been greatly pleased with their character and brotherly spirit.

The questions as to who is to be sent to P'yong Yang - who to take the Boys School in case I am sent - who is to be stationed in Seoul & where, are also beginning to press pretty closely upon us for careful consideration. I had almost taken it for granted that I should be sent North but several of the Mission have recently questioned the advisability of my leaving Seoul - and yet I do not well see how

entirely new men without the language are to go in there - and go in there this year some way or other I feel we must.

So rush to give you a view of some of the things passing through our minds & claiming attention. Now a few words concerning our present work and my tale will end.

Next week our Theological Class assemblies and Mr. Gifford and I are preparing for it in confident expectation of a rich blessing. We expect a large attendance and as both of us are better qualified to teach we expect a more profitable time. Our Sunday morning services have been growing in interest and attendance this fall. I have been able to divide the time with our Korean evangelist, each of us giving a talk each morning. Last Sunday I have reason to believe that 4 men were deeply convicted under a sermon on Repentance as each of them afterwards wished to inquire more thoroughly and expressed a desire to become a Christian. Mrs. Gifford and I have begun a regular service for women Sunday night. Mrs. G. has charge of it, the preaching being committed to me. I feel deeply thankful that my progress in the language has been such as to enable me to be quite readily understood and that I am now able to discourse to them at length. The Sunday School service Sunday afternoon has not grown in attendance, there being but few Korean children in the school & settle out - some of them attending the M.E. Sunday School.

Now that I find myself qualified for preaching I long to have more time to work up preaching services and I hope the Annual Meeting will either send me to a Station or so relieve me of some of my work that I can do more in the way of prappling with Koreans as individuals & in leading them to Christ.

The work in the Boys School is progressing and I feel sure that in it we have boys who are being given thorough instruction preparatory to their becoming useful men in our work. Almost all our work in every department has so far been preparatory but we shall before another 5 years step into a second stage of our growth.

A letter from Mr. Underwood tells me he expects to reach here in March. We shall greet him with a royal welcome and he will soon find his hands as full of work as ever.

Probably before I shall have occasion or opportunity to write you again Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's will have passed. May they prove to be joyful ones to you bringing you cheering news from all the mission fields and the home churches.

Sincerely yours in His service,
Samuel A. Moffett

27. Feb. 1, 1933.

Seoul, Korea. To Dr. Willingood.

In beginning my third annual letter to you I wish first of all to thank you for your kind and appreciative letters and also to assure you that you and we have every reason to feel encouraged and hopeful in view of the past year's work in Korea. We have closed our Annual Meeting - one which was a delight to us all chiefly because of the evident presence of the Spirit of God giving us the greatest harmony of action notwithstanding very divergent views on some questions as they first presented themselves.

You would be delighted could you see the evident desire on the part of all to get at the real work which we came to do and could you see the spirit which animates our discussions and the determination to plan only for a solid and enduring work.

We had hard problems to solve this year and questions which affect the future lives and work of most of us but they were met with much prayer and with a willingness to do whatever the Lord seemed to indicate through the Mission was His will.

It was a responsible place in which the older ones were placed and we gave the questions most thorough discussion and thought and much prayer, that we might assign the new people to such places and work and place them in such relations with the older missionaries as would promise most for the advancement of the work and at the same time maintain the excellent spirit of harmony in the Mission.

Messrs. Gale & Lee and myself were the Com. on apportionment of sub-stations & work and we had the active counsel & cooperation of Mr. Baird as we were all at my house during the meeting. We thoroughly canvassed the situation and the personal preferences of all and then assigned work. When the report was submitted not an objection was raised and all stand ready to go ahead with the work assigned them.

You will see from the reports what was done during the year and how we regard the work. I have nothing further to report except to speak of the proposed work for the coming year and to seek to emphasize the desirability, I should almost say, the necessity of an endorsement of some of our plans.

Personally, the opening and occupation of Pyongyang affect me most and I shall be greatly disappointed and feel that we have lost ground should the Board fail to approve and appropriate the \$1000 asked for discretionary use in purchase of